

Summit NJ Times

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OUTSTANDING CITIZENS HONORED AT BOY SCOUTS DINNER

Submitted by Jennifer Volz

Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council honored local citizens at the 2018 Summit Good Scout Awards Dinner held on April 26, 2018 at the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit. This year's honorees were Celia Colbert, Diane Gallo, Pamela Gumport, Greg Hybl, and Paul Kieltyka.

The event recognizes these five outstanding citizens for their community service, as evidenced by their leadership and interests within the Summit community, and for their embodiment of the values of the century old Scout Oath and Law in their personal and professional lives.

Celia Colbert is a trustee of the Summit Area Public Foundation and the Summit Free Public Library. She is a past president of the Summit Board of Education, where she served for six and a half years, and of S4A, the Summit African American Action Association. In addition to her local activities, Celia serves on the Board of Directors of UNCF (the United Negro College Fund) and the Board of Trustees of Colgate University. She is a retired Senior Vice President, Secretary and Assistant General Counsel of Merck & Co., Inc.

Diane Gallo is an active member and Past President of the Summit League of Women Voters. She volunteered, served on the board, and worked for The Connection. Diane served on the Summit Board of Education, following that, she served as President of the Summit Educational Foundation. She serves on the board of The Mayor's Committee on Public Art, Summit Public Art, and helps to bring art to public spaces in the city. For the past twelve years, Diane has been active on the Board of Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, a professional ensemble company in Summit, where she now serves as Board President. When she worked for Summit Downtown, Diane was instrumental in starting the Summit Farmers' Market, which is still going strong today.

Pamela Gumport has been involved with Bridges Outreach Inc. since 1991, having served as its Board Chair, twice, and, also as Treasurer. Today, Pam continues as Co-chair of Bridge's



(above, l-r) Honorees: Celia Colbert, Diane Gallo, Pamela Gumport, Greg Hybl, Paul Kieltyka

board. Pam is working on her second term as Treasurer at Reed-Reeves and has helped assure the institution's continued prosperity. Pam has also served on the Overlook Foundation Board as Vice Chair, the Outreach Committee for the Community Congregational Church in Short Hills, and, for seven years, Pam served on Summit's Zoning Board of Adjustment including one year as Vice Chair and three years as Chair. She also served on the Summit Master Plan – Housing Committee in 2016. Pam is a sales associate for the successful Peck-Gumport Team at Prominent Properties Sotheby's International Realty.

Greg Hybl serves as assistant Scoutmaster in Boy Scout Troop 67, Summit, where his two boys have benefitted from the knowledge, leadership skills, and self-reliance that comes from an immersive experience in Scouting. As Vice President and General Manager, Enterprise Strategic Partnerships, Greg is responsible for strategy and development of Amex's largest strategic partnerships at an enterprise level. He joined Amex in 2009 and has held a variety of positions increasing in responsibility across the Merchant Services and Commercial Payments businesses within Amex. A former Board Member of the U.S. Travel Association, Greg currently sits on the board of United Negro College Fund.

Paul Kieltyka has served as President and CEO of the Summit Area YMCA since 2014. He has spent the last 24 years at several Y's in New Jersey. Building upon a lengthy playing career in lacrosse, Paul remains very involved as a coach and administrator for youth boys' and girls' lacrosse. Additionally, he is currently a volunteer part-time coach for Kean University Men's Lacrosse team and President of the Scotch Plains/Fanwood Lacrosse Club. Having adopted Summit as his second hometown, Paul is active in several organizations in and around Summit including the Summit/New Providence Rotary and Summit Mayor's Forum on Diversity.

The Summit area is a part of the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America which serves over 16,000 youth in over 400 Scouting units in communities like ours throughout Morris, Middlesex, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties. For more information on Scouting contact Jennifer Volz, Development Director, at 973-765-9322 ext. 249 and/or jennifer.volz@scouting.org.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS RECEIVES TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Summit Times is published by Renna Media. 9,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every home and business in Summit.

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The New Jersey Recreation and Park Association recently recognized two employees of the Summit Department of Community Programs (DCP) at its recent Annual Conference and Exhibition on March 4 to 7, 2018, at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

David Guida Jr, Program Supervisor of the Summit DCP received the prestigious William D. Foelsch Young Professional Award for his exceptional work in providing programs and special events in Summit. He was also recognized for his contributions to the NJRPA for serving on several committees and in leadership roles. David has been with the City of Summit DCP for the past eight years. He joined the department as a seasonal worker and then as a full time Program Supervisor in 2016. In his role, David secures corporate sponsorships for city-wide special events and he is involved in producing most of the major events on the Village Green including "Screen on the Green" and "Hot Summer Nights Concert Series."

Jamie Colucci, Program Supervisor, received the Agency Showcase Award for his re-branding of the 70th Anniversary of the Summit Fourth of July event. Jamie began his career with the DCP as a volunteer in the department for several years prior to becoming the Presiding Officer of the

DCP Advisory Board, and then as a full-time Program Supervisor with the department. Jamie's specialty areas include graphic design, promotions, communications, and project management. Jamie also manages the construction project at the Summit Community Center. Most recently Jamie managed the successful completion of an artificial turf replacement and bleacher project at Investors Bank Field. Jamie's graphic design capabilities, photography and drone photography abilities are a huge asset to the department.

"I am very proud to share the news of this recognition for two very talented DCP staff members," reports Director of Community Programs Judith Leblein Josephs. "David and Jamie provide creativity, enthusiasm and integral support to ensure our programming is world-class here in Summit. We value and thank them for their contributions to our community and our work."

The New Jersey Recreation and Park Association (NJRPA) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of all New Jersey residents by supporting outstanding park, recreation, and natural resources management programs. Since 1928, the efforts initiated by the NJRPA and its membership have resulted in tangible benefits for communities throughout the state.



(above) David Guida Jr.



(above) Jamie Colluccio

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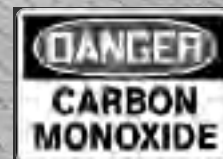
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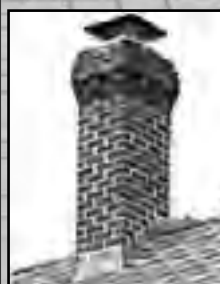
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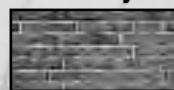
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SUMMIT PAL LENDS A HELPING HAND TO FIRST AID SQUAD

By John Staunton

Members of the Summit PAL visited the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad headquarters to see the fruits of their recent donation.

After the Summit Police recently migrated to a new digital radio system, the Summit First Aid Squad quickly discovered their older radio scanning system was not compatible. The resulting distortion began to interfere with the

building intercom that carries EMS as well as Police and Fire communications, so the scanner had to be turned off, eliminating the ability of on duty crews to hear radio communications from the Police and Fire departments. The solution was a new digital radio scanner. Nick Curiale, a former First Aid Squad volunteer and current member of the PAL Advisory Board, learned of the dilemma and offered to help. The PAL agreed

to donate the new equipment which squad members were able to install.

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad has 62 adult members, 20 junior members and is always looking for new members to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided. For information on becoming a volunteer, please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site at: summitems.org.

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(above, l-r) Summit EMS Equipment Lieutenant Anthony Campanelli, PAL President Charlie Robertson, Nick Curiale, and Summit EMS Deputy Chief Matt Raymond.

Photo by John Staunton

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MELINDA GIFFEN FRATER SWORN IN AS CASA VOLUNTEERS

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Community members from Bridgewater, Cranford, Elizabeth, Fanwood, Linden, North Bergen, Scotch Plains, and Summit recently completed child advocacy training in order to serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving Union County's abused, neglected or abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care. The volunteers, ranging from 25- to 62-years-old, were officially sworn in today as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) by Union County Superior Court Judge James Hely.

Family, friends, CASA staff and board members looked on as Judge Hely administered oaths to the new advocates, who also received a commemorative pin and certificate. Each were matched to their foster youth or sibling set during a celebratory luncheon following the ceremony.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including a former foster youth, former teen mom, single parent, immigrant, soon-to-be first-time mom, and sibling of an adoptee. Professionally, members of the training class have backgrounds ranging from high school to graduate degrees, and employment that includes social services, corporate work, and self-employment. Both parents and non-parents were in the class, and most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate in the community and in court to ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible. It is CASA of Union County's goal that every area foster child have a CASA volunteer; yet half of the 600 Union County youth in care still await an advocate.

For details on training or other ways to help the organization, contact Courtney at 908-293-8136 or cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above, l-r) Outside the family courthouse in Elizabeth are, from left, newly sworn in CASA volunteers James Anglin of Fanwood, Tiffany Parchment of Elizabeth, Laurie Rando of Scotch Plains, September Patterson of North Bergen, Jaime Castro of Bridgewater, Melinda Giffen Frater of Summit and Kennisha Qualls of Linden. Not pictured is Cranford's Jim Van Horn.

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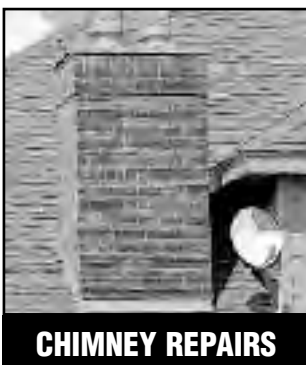
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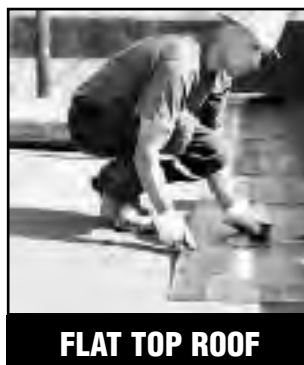
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RESIDENTS HUGO & MARILYN PFALTZ TO BE HONORED AT GALA

Hugo and Marilyn Pfaltz of Summit will receive the Founder's Award at Greater Newark Conservancy's "Making Our City Bloom Gala" on May 10, 2018. Marilyn Pfaltz is retiring in 2018 after a 30-year volunteer commitment as a member of the Conservancy's Board of Directors.

Pfaltz joined the Conservancy Board in 1998 and has served as Co-Chair of the Development Committee since 1997, when it was still the Capital Campaign Committee. A founding partner of P & R Associates, she received her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, and D.H.L. from Bloomfield College, New Jersey. She lives in Summit, New Jersey with her husband, Hugo, also a Conservancy supporter, whose great grandparents arrived in Newark before the Civil War.

The Conservancy's educational programs enrich the lives of thousands of inner city children from pre-school to high school. Sustainably-raised produce grown on the Conservancy's urban farms in Newark increase access to fresh, nutritious food for thousands of low income residents of the City, including many senior citizens.

Through the City Bloom Landscaping Program, the Conservancy provides job and life skills training for hundreds of recently incarcerated Newark residents as they move towards full-time employment and reclaimed lives. Support for the gala will help the

Conservancy continue to expand programs and services to make an even bigger contribution to the communities it serves.

"For 31 years, Greater Newark Conservancy has provided programs and services that contribute to a cleaner and greener city, better health and nutrition for Newark residents and new opportunities for people returning to the community from the criminal justice system," noted Robin Dougherty, the Conservancy's Executive Director. "Marilyn and her husband, Hugo, were there from the start, and have helped us pursue our mission with passion and determination. Their love for the City of Newark, its people and the environment have been greatly appreciated and will be hard to replace."

Linda Bowden, New Jersey Regional President of PNC Bank, will be the event emcee. Other honorees include Don "Skip" Browne, who will receive the "Joan D. Murray Volunteerism

Award"; Jane Houston, "The Shipley Family Award for Philanthropic Endeavors"; and Bill and Sharon Brown, "The Nelson Mandela Freedom Award."

You can support the continued good work of the Conservancy, which has earned a four-star rating for sound fiscal management from Charity Navigator, the nation's premier charity evaluator, by purchasing tickets for the Gala on Thursday, May 10th, 6 to 9 p.m., at Nanina's in The Park, Belleville, New Jersey. To reserve tickets online, visit bidpal.net/citybloomgala or call 973-642-4646.

For more information about the benefit visit citybloom.org. You can also visit the site to learn about other programs and services and volunteer opportunities and follow the Conservancy on social media at

[Facebook.com/GreaterNewarkConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterNewarkConservancy), plus Twitter and Instagram @Citybloom87.



(above) Summit residents
Marilyn and Hugo Pfaltz.



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CREATIVE SUMMIT MEETING ON MAY 29, 2018

Submitted by Ellen K. de Havilland, MT-BC

Creative Summit will be meeting on May 29, 2018, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Summit, 17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit. John McEwen, Executive Director of the NJ Theatre Alliance will be opening the conversation, and Meg Fallin Dietrich will be sharing a bit about supporting a creative community. The conversation, "A starting point for connecting culture with community" is an opportunity for the public to get engaged in the conversation.

We invite our friends and neighbors to come network; discuss the unmet needs of arts organizations, artists, and Summit citizens young and old; and explore opportunities for collaboration among us. During our preliminary planning meetings, we have sketched out the following goals for Creative Summit:

1. to create a forum for collaboration in community,
 2. to connect creative citizens and artists with business community leaders,
 3. to celebrate arts for their own sake,
 4. to celebrate and integrate culture and diversity,
 5. to foster overall health, happiness, and improved quality of life within our community,
 6. to celebrate Summit as an arts and cultural destination, and engage and empower citizens through creative pursuits.
- Join us and be a part of this conversation!
- The shape of the group and the focus of our energies will emerge from its participants.
- Please RSVP by emailing summitarts2014@gmail.com.

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**"Information was clear, easy to
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*Lynn McKenna,
Parent of High School Senior*

**"Opened up opportunity to look
at colleges we thought were out
of our price range."**

*Barbara Eames, Parent
of High School Sophomore*

**"Covered a lot of ground - easy
to follow and moved quickly."**

*Sara Pogue,
Parent of High School Junior*

**"Demystified the college
funding process"**

*Joseph Mozzella,
Parent of High School Senior*



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SUMMIT FIREFIGHTERS WERE HONORED WITH AWARD OF VALOR

Firefighters from the Summit and Millburn Fire Departments were chosen to receive the Group Effort Valor Award from the New Jersey State Fireman Benevolent Association (FMBA) recognizing their rescue efforts at a fire that occurred on December 31, 2017 at 125 Summit Avenue, Summit, New Jersey

Chief Eric Evers of the Summit Fire Department stated, "Their

commitment to the Summit Fire Department and the citizens of Summit is acknowledged and greatly appreciated. I am proud that they have all presented themselves in the highest tradition of the fire service, saving the life of another."

The awards were presented at the Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey, on April 21, 2018.



(above, l-r) Summit Firefighter Brian Tavis, Summit Firefighter Dwight Nichols, Summit Firefighter Christopher Esposito (top row), Summit Firefighter Gabriel Iannella, Summit Firefighter James Pignatello, Summit Battalion Chief Henry Clint Evers, Millburn Captain Bernard Cunningham, and Millburn Firefighter Michael Pershyn. And not pictured, Millburn Firefighter Augustine Muresan.

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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.



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26TH 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.

2018 ± MAY 31 - JUNE 3

THURSDAY 5 - 10 PM	FRIDAY 5 - 11 PM	SATURDAY NOON - 11 PM	SUNDAY NOON - 6 PM
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SUMMIT DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ANNOUNCES FREE CHEERLEADING CLINIC

The Summit Department of Community Programs announces a free Cheerleading Clinic which encourages positive attitudes, teamwork, commitment, and discipline. It will help develop self-confidence, leadership, and interpersonal skills.

Cheer Clinic will be held on Tuesdays, May 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2018 at Wilson Primary Center's Multi-Purpose Room @ 14 Beekman Terrace, Summit, New Jersey from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The Clinic is open to all children going into grades 5

through 8 in Fall 2018.

In this free and interactive program, participants will be given the opportunity to learn basic cheers and see what Summit's Cheer program is about. This serves as the perfect opportunity to learn about our Cheer program if you are new to the sport; or brush up on your skills if you have cheered before.

For more information and registration contact the Summit Department of Community Programs at 908-277-2932.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP KEEP SUMMIT'S TREE POPULATION STRONG

Submitted by Meredith Hendra

The Shade Tree Advisory Committee is looking to assemble a small group of volunteers to help with the removal of tree suckers (small branches that grow at the base and on the trunk of trees) from the city's tree population.

Volunteers will receive training and can work on their own schedule. No climbing on ladders or use of power tools necessary. Please contact John Kilby, Summit Shade Tree Committee Chair, at JohnWKilby@gmail.com

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MARIJUANA DISCUSSION AT DE CORSO CENTER

Submitted by Marlene Sincaglia



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"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.

The American Civil Liberties Union was founded in 1920 and is our nation's guardian of liberty. The ACLU works in the courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by the

Constitution and laws of the United States.

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.

Melissa Tasse has a PhD in neuropharmacology. She is the Founder and CEO of The Honey Bee Foundation which is dedicated to providing education and resources to help prevent substance abuse disorders. She is a member of NJ Ramp. The group believes that science and evidence should guide our approaches to marijuana laws not ideology or profit.

The League of Women Voters is, a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS RECEIVE GRANT FROM THE SUMMIT AREA PUBLIC FOUNDATION

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County is pleased to announce a \$10,000 grant award from the Summit Area Public Foundation to support Positive Action Program. Positive Action will impact 75 members at all grade levels in three of our Clubs: Union, Elizabeth, and Plainfield. Support from the Summit Area Public Foundation allows Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County to expand Positive Action to additional members, impacting more lives.

The basis of Positive Action Program is that by doing positive actions you achieve success. It promotes an intrinsic interest in learning and becoming a better person. Through Positive Action, members are empowered to find their own unique greatness and have been intrinsically motivated since we all want to feel good about ourselves.

"We are so grateful for the Summit Area Public Foundation (SAPF) for their partnership and support of this important program," said Russell Triolo, Chief Executive Officer. "Their funding allows us to make a difference by bringing Positive Action to more members."

"SAPF is proud to partner with the Boys & Girls Club to reach more students with the Positive Action program," said Celia Colbert, SAPF Trustee. "Creative initiatives like Positive Action ensure SAPF achieves its goal to make a difference in our local communities."

Positive Action is an education program that has been implemented in thousands of schools, as well as by community organizations and in

many other settings. Positive Action engages youth ages 4 to 18 in character development, social and emotional learning, and academic improvement. Positive Action builds on the philosophy of positive actions for the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional areas (the whole self). Cycles of positive (or negative) actions become habits, habits become character, and character becomes destiny. Positive Action is organized into six (6) units by grade level. This program reinforces and aligns with Boys & Girls Clubs of America pillars of youth development, further developing youth into responsible citizens who are prepared for a successful future.

About The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County seek to inspire and enable young people, who need them most, to realize their full potential and have provided opportunity for youth since 1955. They are part of a national network of some 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4.6 million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6- to 18-years-old, conducted by a full-time professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development, education and career exploration, financial literacy, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and family outreach.

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CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN AWARDS GRANTS TO BRIDGES OUTREACH

Submitted by Beth Tulloch

The Lena Willis Mission Fund of Central Presbyterian Church of Summit, New Jersey, awarded Bridges Outreach a \$20,000 grant to provide case management services to individuals in Newark who are experiencing homelessness. The grant will provide seven individuals with access to job readiness, internships, employment and rental assistance and ultimately, independence.

Each of these seven people will be prepared for internships that may lead to employment, and matched with a place to live, with Bridges acting as liaison between the landlord and tenant.

"We are very grateful for the continued support of Central Presbyterian Church and Lena Willis Mission Fund, which has helped Bridges significantly grow its programs to the homeless and achieve greater impact in the last several years," said Lois Bhatt, Executive Director of Bridges Outreach.

Established in 1988, Bridges delivers food, clothing, toiletries, and other necessities each week to those who are homeless or in need in New York City, Newark, and Irvington. In the last fiscal year Bridges made 232 "Runs," outreach visits to the street. Bridges offers volunteer opportunities to adults and high school students to make a direct impact on our homeless friends that are often life-changing, especially for our high school volunteers. In Summit, Bridges

opens its doors to neighbors in need every Friday.

In 2014 Bridges established Project Connect in Newark, where professional case managers work one-on-one with homeless clients to create an attainable set of goals to lead to better health, and ultimately housing, a job, and independence. Bridges offers on-site medical and mental health care through a partnership with St. James Health, and off-site substance abuse treatment through St.

Michael's Medical Center. Project Connect case managers provide wrap around services. In addition, case managers engage in street outreach to remote areas frequented by the City of Newark's most vulnerable populations, including soup kitchens, the Newark Public Library, Penn Station, parks, and hospitals.

For further information visit bridgesoutreach.org.

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Clark Monthly	6,700	\$1,675	07066
Cranford Monthly	9,500	\$2,375	07030
Fairwood Post	3,000	\$750	07025
Garwood Times	2,200	\$550	07027
Green Brook Gazette	3,000	\$750	08818
Kenilworth	3,600	\$900	07033
Life in Linden	12,500	\$3,125	07036
Long Hill Leader	3,600	\$900	07038
Madison Monthly	6,300	\$1,575	07040
Mountain View	2,800	\$700	07093
New Providence News	4,800	\$1,200	07974
The Pride of North Plainfield	8,300	\$2,075	07060
Our Town Rahway	6,000	\$1,500	07065
Scotch Plains	9,600	\$2,400	07076
Summit Times	9,600	\$2,400	07901
Spirit of Union	5,500	\$1,375	07083
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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 text book 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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