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LARGE TURNOUT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE BY STUDENTS

Submitted by Mary Ann McGann

Hundreds of students and their families from Westfield Public Schools participated in a recent districtwide community service effort in support of homeless shelters, fighting hunger campaigns, senior citizens, rescue animal organizations, and others in need of charitable help.

"The whole point of Community Service Day was to provide hands-on activities that kids could do that provided some benefit to our community. While donation drives at each school are very important, we started this event three years ago [at Franklin School] because we could not find activities that our kids could do beyond buying something and dropping it into a collection bin," says Josephine Ferrigno-Stack who co-chaired the March 27, 2018 event with fellow Franklin parent Alyson Twilley. "Our motto is little hands can make a big difference, so we wanted the kids to get their hands dirty and really feel like they were doing something productive and impactful. The act of physically performing a task really hammers home who the kids are helping. It prompts the discussion of who they are helping and why."

At the elementary schools, the events were run by parent volunteers and took place outside of school hours. Each school followed the same basic format of different stations with projects that ranged in ability from first to fifth grade.

"Our hope was to spread awareness about local organizations who could use help and to show our children ways they can help, even though they are young," says Kristen Sonnek-Schmelz, vice president of education for the Washington School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and chair of the school's Community Service Night.

At Lincoln School and the intermediate and high schools, where schedules for the oldest and youngest students can be harder to coordinate, Ferrigno-Stack says they took "a slightly different approach" with more student-driven projects taking place during a portion of lunch periods.

For example, at Roosevelt Intermediate School as part of an independent study project, eighth



Photos Courtesy of Westfield Public Schools

(above) McKinley first grader
Kyle Karlbon colors a placemat.



(right) Josephine Ferrigno-Stack,
parent of three students and co-
chair of Community Service Day.

graders Margaret Ferris, Sarah Kennedy and Megan Sandstedt utilized the school's Community Day to organize and direct the assembly of more than 600 snack packs that were discreetly distributed to children who receive food assistance through school programs but may not have enough to eat throughout the weekend.

"We knew that certain kids got food while at school but did not have enough to eat on weekends," says Kennedy. The three did research, bounced ideas off of parents and Roosevelt principal Mary Asfendis, and organized bake sales to help raise the money to buy the food items needed to assemble the snack packs. The Roosevelt PTO also donated money and food to the project.

"It's a true learning experience," says Ferrigno-Stack about the districtwide community service effort. "One boy at Roosevelt asked me 'are they selling these snack packs?' I explained to him the purpose of the packs, that there were kids in New Jersey who needed the pack just to have food on the weekend. And he was a little shocked. It had never occurred to him that kids wouldn't have food at their houses."

Ferrigno-Stack, who has three children in the Westfield Public School District (elementary, intermediate and high school), estimates that more than 550 elementary students took part in Community Service Day/Night, with an additional 500+ joining in across the intermediate and high schools and at Lincoln School.

"Community Service Day truly embraced the school district's mission of partnering with families and community to educate our students to reach their highest potential as productive, well-balanced and responsible citizens," says Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dolan. "I congratulate and thank all who organized and participated in this amazing event."

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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.

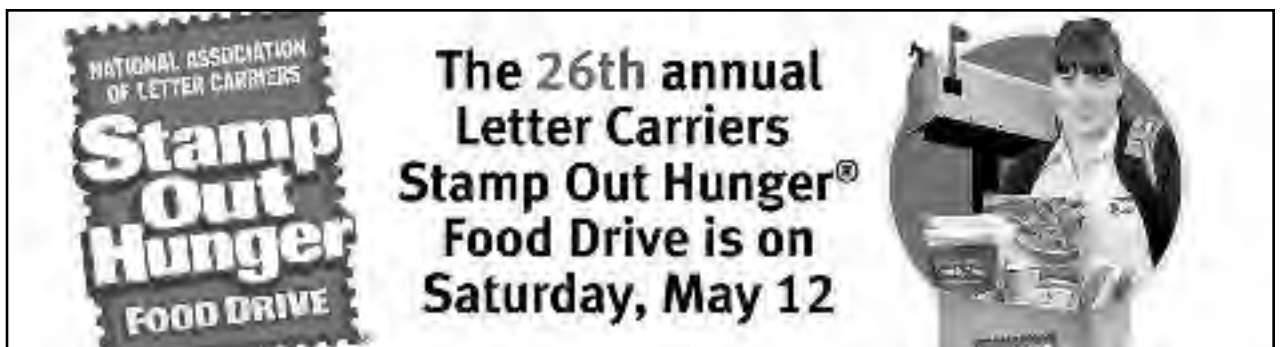
The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper,

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.



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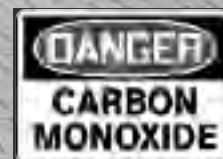
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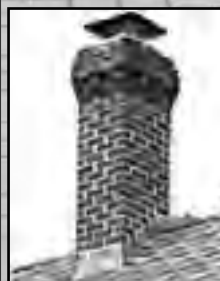
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RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB BRIGHTENS THE DAY FOR WOMEN VETERANS



(above, l-r) Members of the club Alice Cowell, Diana Kazazis, Paula Long, Beth Siano, and Cathy Becker.

Submitted by Betty Round

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield recently hosted a luncheon and floral arranging workshop for the women veterans of the Women's Trauma Unit at Lyons Veterans Medical Center, Lyons, New Jersey. A delicious array of dishes was provided by Mazzella's Gourmet Market of Mountainside, with beverages and desserts donated by Trader Joe's of Westfield.





(above) Arrangements made by the veterans.

After lunch the women designed and made beautiful floral arrangements under the guidance of Rake and Hoe members. In addition to their unique floral creations, each woman left with a goodie bag full of treats and gifts. This event was one of several community projects that Rake and Hoe holds each year to honor and show appreciation for our veterans.

To read more about Lyons Veterans Medical Center and the services they provide for our military heroes, please visit newjersey.va.gov/

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Jeanne Marie Ryan 908-654-0271 or visit the club's website, rakeandhoe.org, or Facebook page: facebook.com/rakeandhoe

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Majestic Winds, the professional wind band of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will present a spring concert at the St. Helen's Church, 1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey on May 17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. The ensemble will be directed by Howard Toplansky, an NJWA staff instrumental instructor. "Our musical offerings are geared to please a variety of musical tastes and range from Renaissance to Ragtime favorites," stated Toplansky.

"Ruy Blas" Overture by Felix Mendelssohn, Selections from "Oklahoma" by Richard Rodgers and "Jazz Waltz No.2" by Dmitri Shostakovich will be the main selections on the first half of the concert. "Gypsy Fantasy" by Marcel Frank, "Gallic Galop" by Herbert Hazelman and "Boomerarchie Rag" by Robert D. Paul will also be featured on this program. Several fine marches will also be performed which include "Colors Flying" by Charles Weiner, "Vintage March" by S.A. Chernetsky and "Brighton Beach" by William Latham.

Additional numbers included in this concert are: "The Last Spring" by Edvard Grieg and "Norwegian Colors" by Jen Erickson. These two selections are commemorating Norwegian Independence Day which is May 17. Also featured on the Program will be "Georgia on My Mind" performed by saxophone soloist Pat Amorapanth.

This event is open to the public. Admission is free, and contributions will be gratefully accepted. For additional information about NJWA or Majestic Winds, call 908-789-9696 or email njwaband@att.net.



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RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB VISIT JARDINE ACADEMY

Submitted by Elizabeth Round

As part of its commitment to community service, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield visited Jardine Academy, Cranford, New Jersey, in March 2018 and worked with students, teachers' aides, and club members to plant a variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers in seed trays. The plants were placed under grow lights and will be tended to by staff members. When the plants are well established, they will be planted in the gardens at Jardine Academy.

Later that month, club members returned to Jardine Academy to decorate the Spring Tree with the 100 kite ornaments designed by club member Mary Lou Nolas and made by fellow club members. The ornaments were inspired by the book *Kite Day*, by Will Hillenbrand. A copy of the book was donated to the school's library. The Spring Tree stands in the lobby of the school and is enjoyed by all who pass by.

The Jardine Academy, operated by the Cerebral Palsy League and approved by the New Jersey Department of Education, provides an educational program designed to meet the cognitive and physical needs of children and young adults, 3 to 21 with multiple disabilities.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the Scotch Hills Country Club, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns. For more information, call Jeanne Marie Ryan (908) 654-0271 or visit the club's website, (rakeandhoe.org) or Facebook page.



(above, l-r) Club members: Betty Gulino, Mary Lou Nolas, Cathy Becker, Joyce Mullen, Jane Christiani, Adah Levin; a Jardine staff member; and Irene Greenstein (club member).

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WESTFIELD CRISIS HOTLINE SCREENS FILM TO RAISE SUICIDE AWARENESS

Submitted by Janet Sarkos

Westfield 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, 2018 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

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| 2 & Under.....FREE! | 2 & Under.....FREE! |

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'CASA DAY' HONORS COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle and the town council declared Friday, March 30, 2018 as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County Day during a town hall ceremony. That date also is the 13th anniversary of the organization's incorporation. There are nearly 30 Westfield residents who are active volunteers and board members, and many attended in support of the dedication.

CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned children placed in foster homes or residential facilities. There are nearly 600 Union County children, from birth to age 21, in foster care, and the nonprofit advocates for half of these youth. Volunteers ensure children's best interests remain the priority while working toward establishing a safe, stable, and permanent home for each child. The organization's goal is to provide a CASA volunteer for every foster youth.

Said Executive Director Marla Higginbotham, "Westfield residents have been tremendous in their efforts for fragile children in our

community. They've truly changed lives. Having Mayor Brindle and the town council recognize the crucial work of our volunteer advocates helps shine a light on the big picture: children are abused and removed from home throughout all of Union County and placed in foster care, and every municipality can help change the course of those childhoods. We've advocated for nearly 600 youth since 2005, and right now 25 Westfield residents are doing their part to increase that total. Just imagine the possibilities and the children who will be reached when all 21 towns embrace the need for awareness and action for local youth in care! Thank you, Westfield!"

Most CASA volunteers have no prior knowledge of the foster system; varied backgrounds contribute toward success with the youth. The most recent class of CASA volunteers ranged from age 21 to 81, were parents, non-parents, retirees, college students, business professionals, teachers, a nurse, attorney, and homemakers. Advocates are sworn in by a judge and given court-ordered access to a child and all parties in their life. They report findings to the judge and ensure their youth's best interests remain a priority. For details on upcoming trainings or other ways to help, contact:

Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or (908) 293-8136.



(above, l-r) Mayor Shelley Brindle reads proclamation to Executive Director Marla Higginbotham and Board President Jennifer.



(above, l-r) Among those gathered to support the CASA Day proclamation were, advocates Cheryl Kelesoglu, Linda Napiorski, Alice Brucia and Anne Bristow of Westfield; Board President Jennifer Mutch; Board Member Molly Tucker McCue and Development Manager Phyllis Dunlop, both of Westfield; Board Vice President Ron Silver, Board Members Terry Gould of Westfield, Geraldine Keogh, and Vince Wilt of Westfield; and Executive Director Marla Higginbotham.

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KIDS DISCOVER MUSIC, ART, DANCE & DRAMA SUMMER ARTS WORKSHOP

Summer is a perfect time for children of all ages to explore their creativity and discover something new. The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts is giving those children a spectacular opportunity to unleash their inner artist at the 2018 Summer Arts Workshop, a day camp located in beautiful downtown Westfield.

Running from July 9 to 27, the program will provide students of all abilities and interests, from ages 4 to 18, the opportunity to explore the visual and performing arts at a variety of different camp options.

"Young Explorers," a camp for kids aged 4 to 6, will explore music, visual arts and crafts, dance and the joy of reading, all designed to pique the littlest student's interest.

"Elementary Artists," a camp for those entering grades 2 to 5, provides an arts discovery curriculum designed to give in-depth and well-rounded exposure to instrumental music, visual arts and dance.

There are also several subject-specific camps for older or more discerning students. Participants in the "Spotlight Drama Camp," for students entering grades 6 to 12, will sing, dance and act in a full production of a Broadway musical.

For young instrumentalists, the "Virtuoso Chamber Camp," intended for students entering grades 3 to 12, is a fully immersive musical experience for students with at least one year's experience on their instrument. Participants will explore the great chamber works written for their instrument, as well as brush up on their music theory, sight reading and music history.

As an alternative to the classical training which the "Virtuoso Chamber Camp" provides, "Jam-a-Rama" is a camp for kids entering grades 6 to 12 who like to play rock, pop and jazz on any number of instruments including guitar, bass, and keyboard. Participants will hone their performance and improvisation skills, and are required to have at least one year's experience playing their instrument.

Interested in signing up, but can't make it for all three weeks? No problem! The Summer Arts

Workshop offers flexible scheduling, as well as early drop-off and extended all-day care for busy parents, in longtime collaboration with the Westfield Area Y. All camps will be located in downtown Westfield, some at the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts studios at 150-152 E. Broad Street, the First Baptist Church at 170 Elm Street and the First Congregational Church at 125

Elmer Street. All are conveniently located within walking distance of each other in downtown Westfield.

For additional information or to register, visit our website at njwasummerworkshop.com, call us at (908) 518-1551, or email us at njwa.summerworkshop@gmail.com. We'll see you this summer!



(above) The NJWA Summer Arts Workshop will offer opportunities for students of all ages to pursue their artistic interests.



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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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MUSIC AND DANCE AT REEVE HOUSE

Submitted by Carol Goggi

The Westfield Historical society is organizing the second annual Music and Dance event to be held on the front lawn of the Reeve House, 314 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey, on June 3, 2018 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Westfield home-grown band Save Mary, along with dancers and instructors from the Westfield Ballroom will show off their talents. Afterwards, the audience will be invited to try out various steps, guided by teachers and advanced students. All ages are invited! Come out to celebrate the end of the spring and welcome the summer in style.

Tickets are \$10 for adults; free for children under 5. Admission includes complimentary light refreshments. Delicious baked goods will be on sale.

There is no rain-date, so please call the Westfield Historical Society for inclement weather information 908-654-1794.

For more information on the Westfield Historical Society and the Reeve House, visit westfieldhistoricalsociety.org

WESTFIELD RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS, CAMP, AND PLAYGROUND REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Submitted by Linda Johnson

Registration is Open for all Summer Programs at the Westfield Recreation Department. Residents can take advantage of the wonderful weather beginning in June with our Outdoor Tai Chi program on Tuesday mornings on the Mindowaskin Park Gazebo. For those who prefer to move to the beat, they can join the "party" with our LaBlast Fitness Class on Monday evenings! For the younger crowd, our Enrichment Camps for kids include: Fashion & Sewing Design, Junior Scientist, Creative Kids, Groovy Girls, and Tech-gineering. For those who love LEGOS we have four enrichment camps: Intro to STEM with Lego, STEM Challenge with Lego, Minecraft Engineering with Lego, and Jedi Engineering with Lego. Kids can "Be Active" this summer in our Weekly Soccer camps with United Soccer Academy and USSI Multi-Sports classes for ages 2 to 6. Back by popular demand our USA and USSI instructors are also hosting week-long sports camps for ages 3 to 14. There is a camp program for every age, check it out.

Our traditional Sport Camps with area coaches

are great programs for any athlete. Register now for Basketball, Flag Football, Golf Academy, Tennis (adults and kids), Volleyball, and Wrestling. Please refer to our website for program and camp information in the "Rec Room" Program Brochure.

If you are looking for a flexible summer camp, then our Summer Playground Program is for you. Playground offers arts and crafts, multiple sports, board games, special days, playground swims at the pool and local trips. Playground is for Westfield resident children only (grades completed k to 8) and new participants require in-person registration.

"Be Active" this summer with one of the programs offered through the Recreation Department.

For additional information, please visit our website: westfieldnj.gov/recreation, our Facebook page or contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, at 908-789-4080 recreation@westfieldnj.gov to obtain a program brochure.



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PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Submitted by Jennifer Jaruzelski

In celebration of National Preservation Month, the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) invites all residents to a special program on May 21, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at 425 E. Broad Street in Westfield, New Jersey. Jonathan Kinney, Historic Preservation Specialist with the NJ Historic Preservation Office, will speak on designating historic properties and what it means for the homeowner and community. The presentation will immediately follow the regularly scheduled HPC meeting.

“We look forward to welcoming Jonathan to Westfield and hope interested homeowners will take this opportunity to learn more about the benefits of historic designation and new developments at the state level,” said Kelly Kessler, chairman of the HPC. “This program is part of the commission’s efforts to actively engage the public in efforts to preserve Westfield’s unique architectural heritage.”

Over its 300-year history, Westfield has accrued an extraordinary variety of building styles and periods, including Colonial era farmhouses, Victorian “Queen Annes,” Edwardian mansions, 1920s cottages, Art Deco storefronts and more. Recognizing the cultural significance of this rich historic and architectural heritage, the Historic Preservation Commission was established by municipal ordinance in 1984.

Historic preservation provides many tangible and intangible benefits to residents and the community at large. It preserves the legacy of important figures and significant events, serves as a catalyst for property values, and helps cultivate the unique character of the town. It strengthens civic bonds and community pride by creating a “sense of place.”

“Home buyers commonly cite beautiful neighborhoods, a charming downtown and excellent schools as their primary reasons for moving to Westfield, and historic preservation plays a role in all three,” said Ms. Kessler. The

unique character of the town in turn helps drive the economic viability of Westfield by making it a desirable community in which to shop, work and live.

“Westfield’s historic properties, planned communities, and diverse housing stock are a unique asset worth protecting,” said Ms. Kessler. “Historic preservation provides one of the few defenses against ‘tear downs’ or inappropriate development. Designating an historic property helps protect it against demolition or encroachment and ensures it will be passed on to future generations.”

The presentation by Mr. Kinney is part of an ongoing series planned by the HPC to highlight topics related to preservation. On June 14 at 7:30 p.m., the commission will host the Harry Devlin Awards ceremony honoring outstanding restoration efforts. Future programs include a workshop on historic architecture by Greg Blasi of Vincentsen-Blasi Architects and an illustrated talk by local historians Robert Wendel and Neal Acito. For additional information on the commission or designating an historic property, please contact hpc@westfieldnj.gov.



(above) Turn-of-the-century architectural gems line the Kimball Avenue Historic District.

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| Programs for Adults | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| Check website for sign up information. Some restrictions* | | |
| 5/1, 8, 15, 22 | 7:00 pm | *Cardio Toning–Bring a mat |
| 5/2 | 2:00 pm | *Decorate Wine Bottles |
| 5/4 | 1:30 pm | TGIF! Trumbull (video) |
| 5/5 | 2:00 pm | *Cook Chinese Dumplings |
| 5/9 | 7:00 pm | Weiss Family Jazz Series MRB Jazz Project |
| 5/11 | 1:30 pm | TGIF! The Woman in Gold (video) |
| 5/14 | 2:00 and 8:30 pm | Foreign Film: After the Storm Japanese 117 minutes |
| 5/18 | 1:30 pm | TGIF! Flute & Guitar Concert |
| 5/19 | 2:00 pm | Silvertones Flute Ensemble |

| PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|---|
| CHECK WEBSITE FOR SIGN UP INFO | | |
| 5/1, 8, 15, 22 | 10:30 am | It's Movie Time! (All ages welcome with caregiver) |
| 5/3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | 10:30 am | Zumba Fun (2-5 yrs old) Caregiver attends with child |
| 5/4, 11, 18, 25 | 10:30 am | Playgroup for Babies (0-23 months) Caregiver attends. |
| 5/4 | 3:45 pm | Chess Club for Kids No age requirement but players must know how the pieces move |
| 5/5 | 10:00 am | Paws to Read–Beginning readers read to library dogs in 10 minute sessions |

SCOTCH PLAINS RESIDENT LAURIE RANDO SWORN IN AS CASA VOLUNTEER

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. More volunteers are needed to become a foster youth's voice.

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

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RIEDEL 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, New Jersey.

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, and a total of 16,000 youth served in traditional Scouting 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 ppcbbsa.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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The Westfield Financial Center will also be staffed with commercial loan officers to help customers with their business and commercial loan needs. The larger national banks have underserved the small business community. Spencer will fill this gap with a significant and ongoing commitment to local business owners here. Our personalized level of service and attention will serve them well.

Made for the Westfield Community

The Westfield Financial Center, stationed right across from the train station, will have extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Westfield is a bustling commuter hub and these hours will align with commuters' schedules. A 24-hour ATM machine will also be available.

Meet Your Financial Center Manager

Marta Alexandre, celebrating 15 years with Spencer, will serve as the Financial Center Manager. A longtime Union County resident herself, Alexandre has a strong sense of what local residents and businesses need in a community financial institution.



Marta Alexandre
Financial Center Manager
Spencer Savings Bank

"The secret of what makes this bank so successful is the fact that it has all the same capabilities of a larger bank but is able to provide something they do not – and that is a high level of personal attention and commitment to customers," Alexandre said. "Our customers experience how dedicated we are and how we always go the extra mile for them. That is something you can't replicate. We're all excited about expanding into Westfield. I've built strong contacts in the community over the years and know they're going to really enjoy this new way of banking."

The Westfield Financial Center will replace Spencer's traditional branch in neighboring Garwood. Located at 240 North Avenue West, in the heart of Westfield, it is expected to open in July 2018. Spencer will continue to announce details and special offers as that time approaches.

Learning More About Spencer

Spencer Savings Bank, a community bank headquartered in Elmwood Park, N.J. has 21 branches throughout New Jersey. The bank has been in Union County since 1987 and currently has branches in neighboring Cranford and Garwood, as well as Union and Elizabeth.

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MARIANA HAY CALDWELL, PASSES AT 99

Honorary Member of the Musical Club of Westfield



Mariana Hay Caldwell, 99, of Fanwood, passed away on Thursday, March 29, 2018. Born in Philadelphia, Mariana grew up in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where she attended and graduated from Johnstown High School. She then studied at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Fine Arts. She also went on to attend Temple University, with a Master's Degree in Music and Fine Arts.

She was a resident of Fanwood for over 70 years, and a longtime member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains. She was a musician, playing the violin with the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra for many years as well as an active member of the Westfield Music Club.

Mariana was predeceased by her husband, Brent Caldwell, in 1974; her grandson, William Caldwell; and son-in-law, Jeffrey Jaczko. Surviving are her four children; Brent Caldwell and his wife, Linda; Blythe "Bonnie" Jaczko; Austin Caldwell and his wife, Nancy; and Louise Boyton and her husband, Tom; and her brother, George Austin Hay. She is also survived by her nine beloved grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made in Mariana's memory to the Fanwood Rescue Squad Fanwood, New Jersey; or to All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

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METROPOLITAN OPERA SERIES AVAILABLE THROUGH WML FRIENDS

Submitted by Marcy Lechner

Westfield Area Opera aficionados can enjoy the Opera for another season through Westfield Memorial Library Friends. Registration is now open for 2018 to 2019 with the following seven evening performances: September 25, 2018, Aida; November 14, 2018, The Pearl Fishers; December 19, 2018, The Magic Flute; January 16, 2019, Adriana Lecouvreur; February 13, 2019, Don Giovanni; March 6, 2019, Rigoletto; and April 10, 2019, La Traviata. For as little as \$30 a night plus bus fare you can experience one of the best opera houses in the world. Roundtrip bus transportation is conveniently by charter bus from Westfield, New Jersey to Lincoln Center, New York City.

The Subscription Series includes a choice of ticket prices as well as sharing a series with another person. A subscriber can change one or

more operas to other ones to enjoy them together with a friend or spouse. Several people have expressed an interest in sharing a subscription and are waiting for others to join. Tickets range from \$215 (Family Circle) to over \$2000 (Orchestra). With the subscription you get a 15 percent discount over the single ticket price. If a participant cannot attend an opera, the subscription ticket may be exchanged through the Met subscription office (no fees!) or sold to someone else. The opera group maintains a "Standby List" of people who have expressed an interest in buying tickets for individual operas.

If you are interested in participating as subscriber or a standby and would like more information, please see our web site wmlnj.org, wml friends, opera trips, or contact Ulf Dolling at 908-347-3563 or uhdoll@aol.com.



Saturday, June 2, 2018 • 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$50 (Children 12 & under \$10 off) • Reception to Follow

For more information and to purchase tickets visit:
www.SJSCS.org or call (908) 206-4250

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ROBERT HILL BAND TO PERFORM AT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE

The Salem Roadhouse Cafe proudly presents The Robert Hill Blues Band, performing on May 19, 2018.

Robert Hill's songs have been used extensively on television, including, "Long Rain," used for a Smirnoff Ice commercial which aired during the Super Bowl, and continued to run internationally for several years. His music has also been used on "Dexter," "All My Children," "Queer Eye for The Straight Guy," Canadian TV series, "Hell on Hooves," and numerous PSAs and radio spots. He has done extensive studio work as well, lending his slide guitar and arranging expertise to many commercials.

States Robert, "Looking forward to playing this great listening room! All NJ and NYC folks, this is not to be missed! I will be at the Roadhouse with the full band: Joanne Lediger, vocals; Mark Murphy, bass; Eric Puente, drums; Paul Silverman, keys. Come out and support a true listening room/coffeehouse venue!"

Original art work by local artist and teacher Martha Garcia will be on display at the Roadhouse Gallery of Fine Arts.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

Dedication best defines the Salem Roadhouse Café: dedication to excellent music and dedication to the community. In its tenth year, The Salem Roadhouse Café reaffirms its commitment to both.

Started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, the Roadhouse Café continues to operate as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That may be its social mission, but the

Roadhouse Café is and has been a performance venue beloved by the musicians who play there because of its special intimacy with the audience.

CHURCH MUSIC, IT'S NOT

The Roadhouse Café has always offered its stage to local and independent main stream musicians. It's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music, in a world of clubs and bars. Jazz, rock, folk and other groups have performed. During the past 10 years well over 100 different entertainers have appeared. Local fine artists also display their works.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center for Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

The musicians who play the Roadhouse often ask to return as soon as possible. The Roadhouse has given them a place with a beautiful stage, good acoustics, a live, attentive audience, and a sound system that is first class.

Now well into its tenth year of operation, the Salem Roadhouse Café plans to feature many of the performers who have graced the stage in the past, as well as bring talent that is new to the Café stage. The current season will be benefitting Groundwork Elizabeth: Changing Places,

Changing Lives

Admission includes the show, snacks, beverages, and dessert.

Union 34TV records the shows for broadcast so check out past shows on cable TV34. See the Roadhouse on Union TV Channel 34's "Union After Dark" nightly music series.

All ages are welcome.

*It's a wholesome show,
so bring the entire family!*

Doors open 7:30 p.m.

The show starts at 8 p.m.

Admission is \$20.

*Plan now for an evening of great music
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Proceeds will help Groundwork Elizabeth.

*Where: Salem Roadhouse Cafe,
829 Salem Road, Union, NJ 07083*

When: Saturday, May 19, 2018

Web: roadhousecafe.org

Facebook: facebook.com/roadhousecafe

Phone: 1-908-687-1028.

Leave a message and a return number

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Submitted by James Birle

Start off your Memorial Day weekend with a blast and help a good cause. Join together with your friends or family and consider forming a team of 5 to 8 and participate in the 8th Annual Charity Wiffle Ball Tournament Benefiting Sr. Pat's Kids Camp.

Sr. Pat's Kids Camp is a week-long summer camp experience in upstate New York for underprivileged children with cancer. The Tournament will be held on Friday, May 25th, starting immediately after school at Tamaques

Park in Westfield, New Jersey. The cost is a \$15 donation per player. All profits will go directly to Sr. Pat's Kids Camp. Throughout the event, food and drinks from local stores will be available for sale, and games will be available throughout. To volunteer or if you have any questions, please email James Birle at jbirle9@gmail.com. To register for the tournament, please visit sisterpatskidscamp.org and download the sign-up sheet under the "Fundraising Events" tab.

NAMI UNION COUNTY SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF LOVED ONES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS MAY 15

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Union County is hosting a support group for caregivers of loved ones who have a mental health diagnosis. Join our peer led monthly group meetings and gain insight from others facing similar challenges. The next meeting is May 15,

2018, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

For more info call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com

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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PLANNED FOR MAY 28

Plans for the Annual Westfield Memorial Day Parade are underway. The parade, scheduled for May 28, 2018, will have opening ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Monument beginning at 9 a.m. Participants in this parade are required to assemble in the Lord & Taylor (West) parking lot at 8 a.m.

All Westfield organizations are invited to march in this year's Tribute to Veterans who made the supreme sacrifice fighting for the freedom we often take for granted.

The parade committee urges organizations or individuals to either march in the parade, sponsor a wreath to be placed at the Monument or to make a financial contribution to the parade

committee to help offset the costs of running the parade.

The committee is requesting information about any surviving World War II Veterans from Westfield and surrounding towns. We are planning a special tribute for them. Please call the number below.

This year's parade route, after the opening ceremonies, will be straight up East Broad Street ending at Fairview Cemetery.

The Westfield Memorial Day Parade is sponsored by the Town of Westfield and The American Legion Martin Wallberg Post #3.

If there are any questions, please call Stan Cuba at (908) 233-2767.

'MR. ROBERTS,' TO BENEFIT VET'S FAMILIES

The Westfield Community Players Theater in conjunction with the Clark American Legion Post 328 and Clark VFW Post 7363 will present the classic military comedy, "Mr. Roberts," on May 11, 2018 at the Community Players Theater, 1000 North Avenue West in Westfield, New Jersey. The 8 o'clock performance will benefit Fisher House, a 501 nonprofit that provides housing for veteran's families while they are receiving medical care and rehabilitation. Fisher House allows families of the injured to stay nearby free of charge. Since 1990 Fisher House has grown to provide 73 houses for the military veterans and their families. Fisher House Foundation recently reached a new milestone providing 8 million nights of lodging to military veterans and their families. All proceeds from the performance go to Fisher House.

Mr. Roberts is a naval comedy that takes place aboard a U.S. cargo ship in the Pacific during World War II. The captain is a bit of a tyrant; Mr. Roberts wants a transfer; and the crew wants liberty. All this conflict leads to constant bickering with laughs galore. What a great way to enjoy a Friday evening while helping America's military.

Tickets are available through the Clark American Legion, and the Clark VFW. Tickets are \$25. The curtain goes up at 8 o'clock on Friday, May 11, 2018. Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m. and during intermission.

Tickets can be purchased at the Clark American Legion Post 328, 78 Westfield Avenue, Clark, 732-574-8374 and the John L. Ruddy VFW Post 7363, 6 Broadway, Clark, 732-428-4720. Call for more information.

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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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RAILSIDE CAFÉ VOTED TOP NAME TO REPLACE MARA'S CAFÉ & BAKERY

Over 300+ customers submitted name suggestions to replace Mara's Café & Bakery. A Fanwood local (whom requested to remain anonymous) entered the name 'Railside Café' and the popular community hub on the corner of South and Martine will be rebranding throughout the month of May.

Owned and operated by 501 C3 not for profit 'Inroads To Opportunities,' the charity is excited to have a fresh start and move forward with the new identity. Inroads to Opportunities is a vocational rehabilitation center that provides life skills and employment readiness training to 400+ individuals with disabilities in Union and Essex County per year. Railside Café will be a competitive integrated environment for all abilities to work in a fast paced restaurant. The charity also provides a Serve Safe Food Handler Certification Program for people with disabilities

interested in working in the food services business.

"A new name ... a fresh start....endless possibilities. Inroads LLC, a division of Inroads to Opportunities purchased Mara's café in 2015. Since then a lot has happened! We were a franchise, moved over to a licensee and now we are branching out on our own as the Railside Café. We have learned a lot along the way and are very thankful to the residents of Fanwood for continuing support the Café. Look for some changes in the Café going forward and watch out for our upcoming customer appreciation event."

—Owner Michele Ford

Railside Café will continue to serve everyone's favorite items from Mara's Café & Bakery.

Our focus will be on connecting the community with our mission of, "Food For Good."

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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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