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## GIRL SCOUT TROOP 65461 DECORATES MUNICIPAL TREES

*Submitted by Gina Strong*

Green Brook Brownie Troop 65461 hosted a tree decorating event on December 1, 2018, for fellow Girl Scout troops.

Each year the Girl Scout Troops of Service Unit #62 of Dunellen/Green Brook donate handmade ornaments, for both the Dunellen tree in Washington Park, and the Green Brook tree located within town hall. This year's annual event resulted in over 100 ornaments being donated for the two trees.



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Green Brook Gazette*

## CASA SHAW THANKS ITS HOLIDAY PARTNERS

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) has recognized holiday partners who have filled children's wish lists and, as a result, made a significant difference during the holidays for many foster children in our community.

"We are very blessed to have community partners who understand there are foster children who have difficult holiday experiences based on their family situation," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW. "The holidays can bring grief and loss for kids in the foster care system, and the gifts our community partners have been able to generously provide means the world to these children," said Heisler.

CASA SHaW would like to recognize the following companies, organizations and individuals who helped to fulfill the wish lists of the children our organization serves: Asbury Coffee Mill, Bernardsville Girl Scouts, Brunswick Urgent Care, Falcon Engineering, Financial Resources, Fulton Bank of New Jersey, Goddard School, New York Life, Peapack Women's Club, Somerset County Library, Sts. Basilios and Gregorios Church, Wendy's

In addition to filling wish lists, CASA SHaW received donations of books from the Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The organization also

received blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, gift cards, personal care kits, and First Night bags from local Women's Clubs throughout the region. Also, dolls and doll clothes from the readers of the Courier News were given, as well as toys and gift cards from Honor Yoga. Hats, gloves, and scarves were additionally provided by Nancy Verdun.

"When a community comes together for a common purpose, we see positive results," said Heisler. "Children who live their life waiting to be adopted often lose their sense of hope and magic you so often see in their eyes. They wait, wondering if they will receive a gift from Santa or someone who cares. We thank our many community partners care because they've been such an inspiration during this holiday season," Heisler said.

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to "Speak Up for a Child" removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home. To find a local CASA program in your county, visit [casaofnj.org](http://casaofnj.org).

## CASA INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR JANUARY

"Every month we hold three to four information sessions for members of our community and individuals who want to learn more about what it takes to become a CASA," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW. "It's a great way to learn more about what we do and how people can help," Heisler said. Attending an Information Session is required for anyone interested in applying to become a CASA.

Below are the dates, times and locations for the upcoming CASA SHaW information sessions scheduled for January:

- Tuesday, January 8 & Wednesday, January 23 - 5:30 p.m. at the PeopleCare Center in Bridgewater, NJ (120 Finderne Ave, Bridgewater, NJ)
- Wednesday, January 16 - 5:30 p.m. at the CASA SHaW office in Washington, NJ (150 Boulevard, Suite 1, Washington, NJ)

If any member of our community is interested in attending one of these information sessions, registration is required. Please contact our Volunteer Trainer, Karen Cassano, at [karen@casashaw.org](mailto:karen@casashaw.org) or by phone at 908-689-5515 if you plan to attend on either date.

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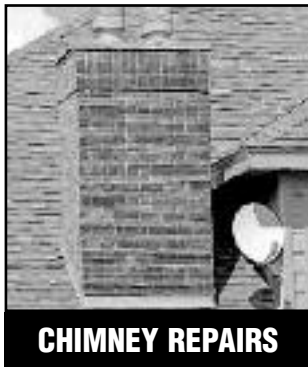




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## FOUR WHRHS ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Four senior athletes at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) signed letters of intent on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, "Fall Signing Day," to play sports for the Division I or Division II universities they plan to attend next year.

"Congratulations to the WHRHS student-



(above) Attending the Fall Signing Day ceremony at WHRHS on Wednesday, November 14, are Rob and Kathy Donnelly and their daughter, Kaylee, who plans to play soccer at Bucknell University.



(above) Chris and Terri Murphy, and their daughter, Madelyn, who plans to play lacrosse at Monmouth University.

athletes who have signed their National Letter of Intent," said both WHRHS Athletic Director Daniel Root and Principal George Alexis.

The four who signed are: In Girls Soccer, Kaylee Donnelly, who plans to study at Bucknell University; Kelly Fitzgerald, at the University of Rhode Island; and Lindsay Wolf, at the University of Massachusetts (UMass), Amherst; and in Girls Lacrosse, Madelyn Murphy, at Monmouth University. Bucknell, URI, UMass, and Monmouth are all Division I schools.

"All student-athletes who have an NLI (National Letter of Intent) are being recognized during the Fall Signing Session, except football, which will be handled at the Winter Signing Day, Wednesday, February 6," said Athletic Director Daniel Root. "Based on the NCAA's recommendation, student-athletes with a commitment to a Division I or Division II

Institution that does not offer NLIs, for example the Ivy League and the Service Academies, will be invited to participate. The Fall Signing day will be for all sports, except football."

"All student-athletes who will be continuing their athletic careers at a Division III school will be recognized during the Spring Signing Day session on Wednesday, May 1," Root said. "In addition, Division I and Division II student-athletes who committed after the fall and winter signing dates will be invited to participate in May.

The last day of this kind of recognition will be Wednesday, June 5.

"In early June, a photograph of all future college student-athletes will be taken," Root said. "This will be a final celebration for all our student-athletes who will be competing in an NCAA sport at the Division I, II, or III level."



(above) Tim and Nancy Fitzgerald, and their daughter, Kelly, who plans to play soccer at the University of Rhode Island.



(above) Gary and Meredith Wolf, and their daughter, Lindsay, who plans to play soccer at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Photos by Warren Hills Regional High School



(above) Four senior athletes at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) signed letters of intent on Wednesday, November 14, "Fall Signing Day," to play sports for the Division I or Division II universities they plan to attend next year. The four who signed are (seated, l-r) Madelyn Murphy, Kelly Fitzgerald, Kaylee Donnelly, and Lindsay Wolf. Standing behind them are WHRHS Principal George Alexis, left, and Girls Soccer Coach, Brian Figueiredo.

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# GIRL SCOUTS DONATE GIFTS TO HOMELESS SHELTER

Submitted by Gina Strong, Service Unit Mgr, SU#62 Green Brook/Dunellen

The Girl Scout Troop's leaders and parents of Service Unit #62 Green Brook/Dunellen volunteer every year to purchase gifts of clothing for a local homeless shelter. As their representative, I also reach out to our local moms in our communities, who respond in kind, to aid us in our endeavour. The generosity of both our

Girl Scouts and our local community, helped "Make the World a Better Place" for these children at the shelter, this holiday season. Over 150 wrapped gifts were delivered to the shelter. It is a yearly tradition our Girl Scout Troops fulfill with pride.



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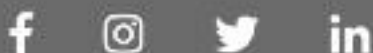
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