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BATTLE HILL SCHOOL TAKES PART IN UNION'S RELAY FOR LIFE

Submitted by Jodi Klausner

Battle Hill was thrilled to be an active part of Union's Relay for Life efforts to battle cancer with the American Cancer Society. Throughout the school year, students and staff of the school participated in several fundraising events and other activities to generate awareness and support. From the 'Many Pieces of My Heart,' to BH Cupcake Wars, "Striking out Cancer" bowling event, and their massive 'Change for Change' effort, the Battle Hill community has continued to show energy, involvement, and kind support of Relay for Life.

Ahead of the official Union Township's Relay for Life walk on Saturday, June 1, 2019, Team Battle Hill threw a huge pep rally and party to support the school's Relay efforts. Students had a blast playing on a Game Truck, making slime, having a Nerf battle, and even trying to dunk the principal, all while partying to a live DJ and munching on lots of yummy food. A huge thank you to some to the generous sponsors, including Gotta Go Gaming, Johnny Napkins Pizza, Davey B's Shaved Ice trucks, and DJ Massa.

"We're so proud how the Battle Hill community has come together to support our Relay for Life team! Our students and staff show how they can make a difference! It's so



(above) The students of Battle Hill enjoying the Kick off Party.

special to be a part of such an incredible, meaningful effort," shared Jodi Klausner, a special education teacher and team captain for Battle Hill's Relay for Life team, along with Danielle Romanyshyn, second grade teacher and Relay for Life team co-captain.

The Relay for Life Kickoff Party raised \$2,120, which brought Battle Hill's final donation to \$6,357.37!

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TIME TO CELEBRATE GRADUATION AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY

What a great time we had celebrating graduation at Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County. We celebrated the achievements of 18 seniors from our Elizbeth and Union Clubs. We are proud that each of these members is graduating high school on-time and has been accepted to college or university. Some of the colleges or universities they will be attending are: Harvard University, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T, University of Delaware, and Stockton University.

“We are so very proud of all these teens. They have worked hard over the years to prepare to for this exciting moment”, said Russell Triolo, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County. “We know they are going to be successful in their future careers and look forward to their return to the Club as alumni.”

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 6-18 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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UNION CHAMBER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO UNION HIGH GRADUATES

Members of the Union Township Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors gathered recently to award scholarships to two Union High School graduates at the school's Scholarship Reception.

Named the "Union Township Chamber of Commerce Businesses Scholarship," the award was created to allow all Chamber member businesses to collectively contribute to the fund and thereby allow for bigger awards. This year, two scholarships of \$2,000 each were presented to Ashleigh Simpson of Union, who will be attending the Fashion Institute of Technology, and Phyllis Kwarteng of Union, who was admitted to Boston College.

The scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Anthony Giordano, a longtime Chamber member who served on the association's Board of Directors for more than a decade, representing Maplecrest Ford Lincoln. Affectionately known as "Uncle Tony" by his friends and colleagues, he was a major force in the Chamber in the 1980's and 1990's, and chaired the organization's Golf Outing.

"We are so very grateful to the Chamber

businesses who stepped up and contributed to this year's fund," said Executive Director James Masterson. "Our Chamber is an important and active part of the community – and this is one way in which we demonstrate our commitment to the Township of Union."

The Chamber businesses who supported this year's scholarship fund are: Galloping Hill Caterers – Platinum Circle; Maplecrest Ford Lincoln and A Rooter Professionals – Chairman's Circle; Nunzio's BBQ and the Union Chamber Board of Directors – President's Circle; Unity Bank – Founder's Circle; Shake A Paw Center for Rescue and Adoption and NJ Arts World – Scholarship Circle; Cynthia McGhee Insurance, Cozy Corner Deli, CMIT Solutions, CED Solutions – Student's Circle; and The MAX of Springfield-Union – Friends Circle.

Information concerning the Scholarship and how to contribute to the fund may be had by calling the Chamber at 908-688-2777 or emailing Masterson at executivedirector@unionchamber.com.

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(above, l-r) The Chamber's May Networking Event at Investors Bank was the site of a gathering to honor scholarship recipients and donors. Pictured are David Arminio, Chamber Board Senior VP; Eugene Mitchell, Board President; scholarship recipients Ashleigh Simpson and Phyllis Kwarteng; and Chamber Board Member Arthur Pinckney.

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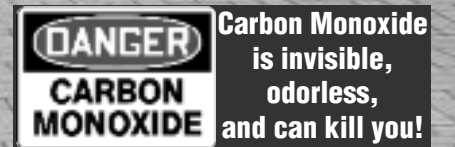
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THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA SUPPORTS 7TH GRADE STUDENTS

Registration begins August 15th, 2019, for the new class of 7th Grade Initiative members at The Gateway Family YMCA. As part of the NJ YMCA 7th Grade Initiative, a state-wide program designed to support and encourage teens to maintain a healthy lifestyle, The Gateway Family YMCA offers a supportive 7th Grade Leaders Club program and complimentary membership for all 7th Grade Students in the local community. Incoming 7th Grade students are invited to visit the YMCA and join starting August 15th with proof of grade and a guardian's signature. Registration is available at The Gateway Family Five Points Branch -201 Tucker Avenue, Union, and Wellness Center Branch - 1000 Galloping Hill Rd, Union.

The goal of the 7th Grade Initiative is to increase physical activity and support teens in the development of lifetime healthy habits and leadership skills while providing a safe and supportive environment with role models at the YMCA. "At the Y, we recognize that 7th grade is a pivotal time in youth development. It is a time where sports become more competitive and many teens begin to become sedentary," stated Krystal. R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family

YMCA. "We believe in providing our students with a supportive environment where healthy habits can be learned and reinforced, new friendships can be made, and positive programs and role models are part of the daily routine."

As part of the 7th Grade Initiative, The Gateway Family YMCA offers a 7th Grade Leader's Club, a structured program offering teens leadership and volunteer opportunities. With a focus on team building, personal growth, character development, service and volunteerism, the 7th Grade Leader's Club empowers teens to create a chart of work specific to the needs within their community and provides support for projects to strengthen community.

Students participate in programs and services offered by the YMCA, and receive a complimentary Full Privilege membership including health and wellness options, swimming, group exercise, as well programs designed exclusively for teens. "Our goal is to provide ongoing support for 7th grade students, assisting them to strengthen healthy behaviors, increase activity, gain a better understanding of

nutrition and develop leadership skills to assist in their development and future," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Y impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faiths or incomes. Providing services for Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County, for over 119 years. The Gateway Family YMCA has six YMCA branches in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, serving the communities of Avenel, Carteret, Clark, Colonia, Elizabeth, Hillside, Kenilworth, Linden, Plainfield, Port Reading, Roselle, Roselle Park, Sewaren, Union, Vauxhall, Winfield Park and Woodbridge, NJ.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA or the 7th Grade Initiative or the 7th Grade Leader's Club, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Five Points Branch at 908-688-9622.



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UNION STUDENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 825

Submitted by Bill Carlos

Members of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825 have awarded \$10,000 scholarships to ten graduating high school seniors entering college this fall. Nicholas Rocha of Union was one of those recipients this year.

The scholarship money was raised by Local 825 members over a 12-month period through a series of fundraising activities, including a golf outing, a sporting-clays rifle shoot, a dinner dance and a motorcycle "Poker Run."

"We hope that these awards will help students reach their potential through higher education," said Greg Lalevee, Local 825's Business Manager. "Given the ever-increasing costs involved, these scholarships mean a lot to the families who receive them."

Seven scholarships were awarded on the basis of academic performance and three were awarded for achievements in athletics, service and understanding of union values.

Nicholas Rocha of Union is the son of

Orlando Rocha and a graduate of Roselle Catholic High School. He is the winner of the Outstanding Understanding and Appreciation of Unionism and Labor Movement Scholarship. During high school, Nicholas volunteered his time at his school's food bank, and at the Connecticut Farms Church food pantry. He will attend Seton Hall University in the fall to study Biology. His ultimate goal is to work in the field of genetics.

The Local 825 Scholarship Program is administered by a team of educators from Rutgers University, headed by Carla A. Katz, Esq., and James Cooney, Esq. The Rutgers team evaluated more than 40 applicants this year, based on transcripts, SAT scores, individual essays and letters of recommendation.

Headquartered in Springfield, Local 825 of the International Union of Operating Engineers represents more than 7,000 members throughout New Jersey and in five counties of lower New York State, including Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan and Delaware.



(above) Nicholas Rocha of Union, who was one of ten scholarship recipients from the International Union of Operating Engineers.




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A TASTY WAY TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO READ

Submitted by Jessica Mongiovi

Students in Mrs. Turner's fourth class at Battle Hill Elementary School diligently read all year in preparation for the grand opening of the "Book-a-Licious Cafe" this spring. After a year of reading books like Goosebumps, Lewis and Clark, and As Old as Time, the students were ready to open to the public.

Hostesses checked reservations at the door and guided guests to the table of their choosing. Each table represented a different literary genre for guests to taste test. Snacks were served to accompany each book title such as Bacon Crackers for The Three Little Pigs Adventure, Popcorn for Lou Gehrig, and Animal Crackers for Charlotte's Web. Students served up their favorite books to guests by sharing information about each one. Each student answered questions from guests and at the end of their time, guests were asked to give their opinion on the book they tasted.

"It's a great way to motivate students to

participate and get really into what they're reading," stated Mrs. Turner, "They were so excited to share with anyone and everyone who walked through the door."



(above) Students Angela and Racheal during the "Book-a-Licious Cafe".

Photos by Township of Union Public Schools.

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