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23 WHRHS GRADUATES PLAN TO PLAY SPORTS IN COLLEGE

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Sixteen of the 23 Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) graduating seniors who have signed Letters of Intent to play sports at the colleges they plan to attend this Fall gathered for a group photo in the school's Media Center in June.

Nine of the 23 student-athletes plan to play at Division I schools while 14 plan to play at Division III schools.

Earlier this 2018-2019 School Year, students had gathered at one of three "Athletic Signing Days," in November, February and May.

"Congratulations to all the WHRHS student-athletes who plan to continue playing sports for their school teams in college," said WHRHS Athletic Director Daniel Root.

The Class of 2019 who plan to continue their athletic careers in college are:

Division I

Kaylee Donnelly, soccer, at Bucknell University; Lindsay Wolf, soccer, University of Massachusetts; Madelyn Murphy, Lacrosse, Monmouth University; Kelly Fitzgerald, soccer,

University of Rhode Island; Jamie Tomassetti, Track and Field, Central Florida University; Jessica Carrieri, Soccer, Elon University; Lola Constantino, Fencing, Princeton University; Vincent Mattaliano, Wrestling, Sacred Heart University; and Kevin Badger, Football, Monmouth University.

Division III

Andrew Martins, Baseball, Nichols College; Connor Ashnault, Cross Country/Track, Franklin and Marshall University; Shannon Twill, Lacrosse, Gettysburg College; Colleen Farrell, Field Hockey, Ramapo College; Maggie Farrell, Ramapo College; Nick Ciraulo, Wrestling, Stevens Institute of Technology; Salvatore Cianfano, Soccer, Farleigh Dickinson University; James McKenna, Baseball, The College of New Jersey; Brendan Wahlers, Lacrosse, Stockton College; Frank Medina, Wrestling, Stevens Institute of Technology; Michael Salerno, Wrestling, Scranton University; Clement Shao, Golf, Stevens Institute of Technology; Edward Williams, Wrestling, York College; and Shray Parimoo, Soccer, Rochester University.



(above, l-r) Seated: Madelyn Murphy, Jessica Carrieri, Kaylee Donnelly, Kelly Fitzgerald, Lindsay Wolf, and Colleen Farrell; standing: Frank Medina, Connor Ashnault, Jamie Tomassetti, Maggie Farrell, Shray Parimoo, Shannon Twill, Clement Shao, James McKenna, Kevin Badger, and Andrew Martins. Not available for the photo: Lola Constantino, Vincent Mattaliano, Nick Ciraulo, Salvatore Cianfano, Brendan Wahlers, Michael Salerno, and Edward Williams.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

**Organizations
who are interested
in submitting
content can
email**

**editor@rennamedia.com
or call 908-418-5586**

Candace and Adam Benzel recently led a community service project to work with the Andre Reed Foundation to renovate a reading room at the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic, NJ. Buffalo Bills NFL Hall of Fame wide receiver Andre Reed established the Andre Reed Foundation to "help underprivileged children reach their full potential and become contributors to their communities." The goal of Andre's "Read with Reed" program is "to encourage kids to exercise their minds, tackle good books, and catch the love of reading."

The project was a culmination of months of organization and collaboration. Candace and Adam are happy to share that through the book drive at Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885, they were able to collect 839 books, 10 tapes and CDs, 7 learning activity books, 23 puzzles and games, 8 craft projects, and 14 other miscellaneous donations! Overall, the project collected over 1300 books and supplies to benefit the Boys & Girls Club – 250 kids in the summer camp

program and 1100 kids that use the club throughout the year. On the day of the project, 20 volunteers spent 5 hours renovating the room and sorting the books for a total of 100 hours of work. And that doesn't include the efforts of local Elks John Pizzigoni and Pete Seavey helping Adam box and carry the books and Denise Heilman helping Candace sort and count the books.

Candace and Adam would like say "THANK YOU to the Elks and to the Warren community for donating the books and for the enthusiastic support of this great cause. This project has so clearly embodied our motto 'Elks Care, Elks Share.' THANK YOU!!!!!"

Are you interested in making new friends, providing direct service to veterans, special children or making a difference in your community? Consider joining the Elks – learn more about us at www.elkslodge885.org, come down and meet us at Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885 or send us an email to get the ball rolling at membership@elkslodge885.org.



(above, l-r) Adam Benzel, Andre Reed, Candace Benzel

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ELIZABETH MORRIS AWARDED THE 2019 WHREA 'SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE EDUCATORS'

WHRHS Graduating Senior Elisabeth Morris, center, is congratulated by WHREA President and WHRHS Social Studies Teacher Ken Karnas, left, and Patricia Buzby, right, one of the two staff

members in the Child Development Program at WHRHS. Morris was selected as the 2019 recipient of the annual WHREA Scholarship for Future Educators.



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SCLSNJ DONATES SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) continues their dedication to contributing to the community all year-long. On August 9, 2019, SCLSNJ staff donated 22 boxes of school supplies to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County through the Project First Class initiative. Donations included backpacks, calculators, writing instruments, and more.

"SCLSNJ is committed to continuing our philosophy of exceptional customer service by connecting with our community, demonstrating empathy for those who have less, and making their day brighter," said Edith Lit, SCLSNJ operations supervisor. "Project First Class for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County was another huge success. We collected an abundance of school supplies for our community members. We can imagine the excited faces of the children that will be receiving new backpacks filled with school supplies."



(above, l-r) Andrew Schuller, SCLSNJ courier; Marie Scannell, Food Bank Network executive director; Jennifer McClear, SCLSNJ library technician; Edith Lit, SCLSNJ operations supervisor; Charlene Perkins, SCLSNJ human resources and payroll associate; and Anthony LoSardo, SCLSNJ courier. For more information or to donate to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County: www.somersetfoodbank.org.

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Michelle Papka, PhD
The Cognitive Research
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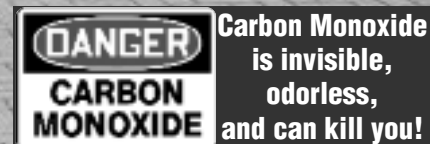
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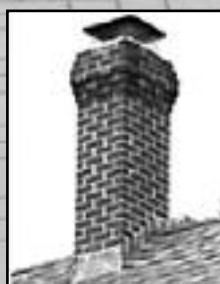
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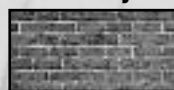
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HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS WITH BACKPACKS FOR LIFE

Submitted by Michael Boll, New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years our charity racing team, Operation Rebound, has been sponsored by Backpacks for Life (BFL). This amazing charity is responsible for providing thousands of homeless veterans backpacks full of essential toiletries and personal items. Also, the BFL will seek out veterans in need and help them with housing, food, employment and any other service that will help them live a better life.

The founder of the BFL, Brett D'Alessandro, is a United States Marine Corps veteran and started this outstanding charity shortly after he returned home from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Brett recalls living out of a backpack during the war and felt a backpack can be a life-saving tool. In just a few years, Brett and the BFL are responsible for making thousands of backpacks for our homeless veterans.

The BFL doesn't just do backpacks, they are committed to helping our disabled veterans by providing them with the necessary resources and life-saving services by participating in various health fairs and PTSD groups. The BFL estimates about 350 disabled veterans have benefited from their resources and outreach. The BFL feels it's easy for a veteran to feel lost in the system. There are amazing resources out there, but it can be overwhelming trying to navigate it alone, so the BFL is there to help and guide the veteran through this agonizing process. What makes the BFL special is they invite veterans into their home and help with filling out paperwork, draft resumes, apply for housing, or whatever else is

needed to help the veteran.

The future looks bright for the BFL. They're excited to expand their backpacks distribution and reach even more homeless veterans. As they connect with more veterans' organizations across the country, they will equip even more communities with backpacks.

Their mentorship and coaching process will soon be accessible online. In this exciting development, veterans from across the country will be able to utilize the organization despite their location. Through this growth, the BFL focus remains on bringing hope back into the lives of veterans.

The BFL is out there every day making a difference and the Operation Rebound Racing Team is lucky to be a part of this incredible charity.

If you are interested with helping the

Backpacks for Life please visit their website backpacksforlife.org.

For more information about New Jersey Veterans Network visit njvn.org.

About Operation Rebound

Operation Rebound is a mobile outreach team of mentors who help at-risk veterans and first responders to live a better life. For the last two years, our team has made huge strides with suicide prevention simply by building trust and cementing friendships with people in need. It's most important to be honest with each person in crisis and follow up with ways to help them regain purpose in life. Setting goals motivates them to stay on a positive track. If you are interested with joining the Operation Rebound Racing Team please feel free to contact Michael Boll at mdbollio@optonline.net or call 973-332-1556.



(above) Brett D'Alessandro, Founder of Backpacks for Life

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WATCHUNG RESCUE SQUAD GIFTED \$2,000 FROM ROTARY CLUB



The Watchung-Warren Rotary Club recently presented the Watchung Rescue Squad with \$2,000 which was raised from the Whole Health & Wellness Expo in June 2019.

(left) Warren Rescue Samantha Picaro, Watchung-Warren Rotary Club President-Elect & Event Chair Nilima Palekar, Club President Arun Mehra, Club Secretary Robert Aznar, and Rescue Squad representative.

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEERS REPAIR HOMES IN APPALACHIA

Submitted by Teri Kesselmeyer

A group of volunteers from St. Vincent de Paul Church, located at 250 Bebout Ave., Stirling, NJ, traveled to West Virginia to help repair homes. The team of 53 teens, young adults and adults not only gave up a week of their summer to serve the less fortunate in Preston County, WV, but also raised more than \$20,000 to fund the trip, particularly for the necessary building materials and supplies.

The teens worked with the Summer Home Repair Program, run by the Catholic Church of Preston County, which provides home repairs at no cost to low-income families and individuals from June through early August. The program began in 1985 after flooding destroyed many homes in the area and has only grown since then.

The group worked with nine families to repair roofs, build ramps, fix porches, kitchens,

do plumbing work, install doors and much more. Adult volunteers worked tirelessly not only to complete the work, but also to teach the teens new skills which, according to the adult volunteers, was complemented by the teen's own skills, especially math as they worked together in calculating and designing their projects. The young adults were able to put their leadership skills into practice. They were able to take the initiative and start working on what needed to be done and pass on their knowledge to our younger teens.

The theme this year was taken from the Gospel of Mark "Go out into the world" (Mk 16:15). The teens became mindful throughout the week, and thereafter, that God calls us every day to go out into the world and share His good news. As many of them shared during our final reflection, we thought that we were bringing Jesus to those whom we went to serve, but to

our surprise, Jesus was already there. We found Him in each person we worked with in West Virginia.

"My trip to West Virginia was different than any other experience I have ever had. I met many nice people that showed me a different side of life," said Mike Sabatella. "From the people I met at our campgrounds, to the group I worked with all week, and most of all the family my group worked for, I learned so much. I learned that when you surround yourself with caring people that are willing to help those less fortunate you gain so much more respect for yourself and others."

At the end of the week, many teens shared similar personal reflections with the group. Volunteers agreed that as much as they had given, they had received so much more in return from the homeowners and the experiences they had on the trip.



(above) The teens, young adults and adult volunteers who traveled to Preston County, West Virginia for St. Vincent de Paul's annual mission trip to provide service and share their faith with families in need.

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CASA SHAW ANNOUNCES INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW) has announced Information Sessions in September for individuals who are interested in learning more about becoming a CASA volunteer advocate.

"Attending an information session is the first step in becoming a CASA volunteer advocate for a foster child who has been abused and neglected. This is where individuals learn about what it takes to become a volunteer," said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW. Attending an Information Session is required for anyone interested in applying to become a CASA.

Below are the dates and times for the upcoming CASA SHaW information sessions scheduled for September.

All sessions will be held at the CASA SHaW

office located at 150 Boulevard, Washington, NJ 07882.

Registration is required by contacting Karen Cassano at karen@casashaw.org or 908-689-5515.

- Tuesday, September 10 - Noon
- Saturday, September 21 - 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 24 - 5:30 p.m.

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.

CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN WEB SERIES TO TEACH CHILDREN INTERNET SAFETY

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) recently launched, "Into the Cloud," a brand new online safety product for children in grades K-5. This includes an animated web series and video game. Using data from actual NCMEC CyberTipline reports, each episode focuses on a different element of online safety, from strategies for handling cyberbullying to recognizing and reporting unsafe/inappropriate interactions and content. Additional episodes will be available throughout the year.

"Into the Cloud" presents important safety information in an age-appropriate and entertaining manner! All the resources are free!

The episodes are available at www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/videos.



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PRO ARTS JERSEY CITY PRESENTS: "PRO ARTS SALONS 2019"

Submitted by Maryann Ficker

"Pro Arts Salons 2019," presented by Pro Arts Jersey City, will be on exhibit from September 8 through 26, 2019 at the Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Rd. Watchung, NJ. An opening reception will be held on September 8, 2019 from 1 - 4 p.m.

The Watchung Arts Center hours are Tuesdays – Fridays, 12 - 5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

This exhibition is the culmination of the Pro Arts Salons 2019 program and showcases specifically produced works done by participating Pro Arts members. Artists chose between the five thematic Salon groups that most closely aligned to their work: The Commentators, The Realists, The Abstractionists, The Globalists, and The Story Tellers. Each salon met monthly

beginning January 2019 for peer feedback and worked closely with a curatorial advisor assigned to their group.

Participating artists and curators included: Commentators: Paul Federico, Brad Terhune, Richard White, with Curatorial Advisor Emma Wilcox; Realists: Laura Brown, Terry Lively, Gregg Rosen, Marianne Trent, with Curatorial Advisor Katherine Murdock; Abstractionists: Bithika Adhikary, Christine Barney, Lisa Collodoro, Tharanga Goonetilleke, Stephen Krasner, Mollie Thonneson, Francesca Azzara, with Curatorial Advisor Enrico Gomez; Globalists: Pam Cooper, Donna Greenberg, Kerry Kolenut, Alpina Mittal "Tejaswini", Nupur Nishith, with Curatorial Advisor Raymond Mingst; Story Tellers: Dorie Dahlberg, Maryann Ficker, Christy O'Connor, with Curatorial

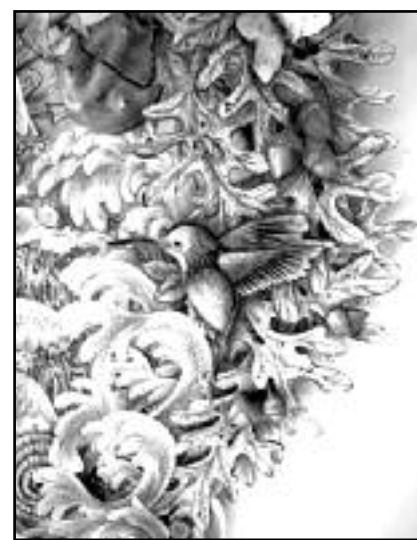
Advisor: Evonne Davis.

Pro Arts Jersey City is a professional visual arts membership organization dedicated to supporting and promoting artists and their work. Please visit their website at proartsjerseycity.org for more information. Their programming is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of the State, a partner agency for the National Endowment for the Arts and by Funds from the National Endowment for the arts, administered by the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Thomas A. DeGise, County Executive, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The Watchung Arts Center hours are Tuesdays – Fridays, 12 - 5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. This exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.



(above and right) Work by Donna Greenberg, Dorie Dahlberg, Paul Federico, and Terry Lively will be included in the upcoming exhibit Pro Arts Salons 2019.



Watchung - Warren Rotary Club
meets every

Tuesday at 12:00pm

Prezzo's Restaurant

50 Mount. Bethel Road Warren, NJ

For information about the Rotary club contact Bob Aznar

908-755-8724

or email rara1055@optonline.net

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SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS AT SCLSNJ'S WATCHUNG LIBRARY BRANCH

12 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069

Tel: 908-458-8455 • Visit us at www.SCLSNJ.org

Library hours are Monday to Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.,
Friday & Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Closed

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library for more information and to register.

Please note the Library will be closed
September 2 for Labor Day

ALL AGES

Mini-Maker Art Space

(families with children):

September 9, 23; 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Tiny Tots

(ages birth - 3 years):

September 3, 10:30-11 a.m.

Family Storytime - Twilight Tales

(families with children):

September 4, 7-7:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytime - Miss June's Room

(ages 3-5):

September 5, 4-4:30 p.m.

Bingo With Miss June

(ages 4 and up):

September 6, 4-4:30 p.m.

LEGO® Club

(grades K-5):

September 10, 4-5 p.m.

Music With Miss Donna

(ages birth - 5 years):

September 17, 10-10:30 a.m.

STEAM - Tape Resist Art

(grades K-5):

September 19, 4-4:45 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board

(grades 6-12):

September 24, 7-8 p.m.

Bugs on the Go

(ages 4 and up):

September 28, 11-11:40 a.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mah Jong Club of Watchung

September 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30;
1-4 p.m.

Watchung Writers Group

September 5, 12, 19, 26;

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Canasta

September 5, 12, 19, 26; 1-4 p.m.

Game Night

September 9, 16, 30; 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Special Needs Social Hour

September 11, 2-3 p.m.

Book Discussion: "Skeletons on the Zahara"

by Dean King

September 12, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Paint and Design Trends

September 23, 7-8 p.m.

Meditation Series

September 21, 11 a.m. - noon

Relaxation, Concentration, and Meditation

Concentration Using Visualization

September 28, 11 a.m. - noon

"MUSIC IN THE PARK"

FEATURING

RIVER OF DREAMS A BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE BAND

WILL BE PRESENTED

**Saturday,
September 21st, 2019
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

PHILLIP'S FIELD

Rain date will be
Sunday, September 22nd.

This event is provided by the
Watchung Recreation Commission.

**For more info
call 908-756-0080**



(above) On August 1, children discovered the world of kings and queens at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Library branch. Attendees listened to fairytales and were inspired to create their own paper crowns. Pictured are Amy Fu, of Watchung; Nijia Fu, 2, of Watchung; and Mateo Bejarano, 6, of Basking Ridge. Connect with fairytales and more by exploring SCLSNJ's complete collection: catalog.SCLSNJ.org.



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We are students, nurses, contractors,
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watchungems.org



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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Hartley Farms Rd, Morristown, NJ 07960

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www.HomeforGoodDogs.org

Tickets: \$88 in advance, \$80 at the gate, \$18 children 18 and under.

HOME FOR GOOD Dog Rescues HARTLEY FARMS

WOOFSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 7, 2019. We will be having our Home for Good Dog Rescue summer music festival event – WoofStock! At Hartley Farms Polo Field, 9 Hartley Farms Rd, Morristown, NJ. This is Home for Good's largest adoption day of the year and is great fun for the whole family. This event is pet-friendly, so be sure to bring your HFG alum to visit!

We will be having live music from the amazing band Brian Kirk & The Jirks as well as food trucks, craft vendors, beer and wine, K-9 contests, prize raffles, dog and family photoshoots by the talented Jennifer Mount

Photography. And of course dog adoptions!

This event is a great place to bring your Home for Good rescue pup for a reunion with other HFG rescue dogs as well as meet the fosters who care for so many dogs.

We would love for you to be part of this fun event at Hartley Farms Polo Field in Morristown, New Jersey.

Gates open at 11 a.m. Activities start: 12 noon. Music: 12 noon – 4 p.m.

Tickets on sale now at: HomeforGoodDogs.org \$25 in advance. \$30 at the gate. \$12 for children 12 and under.

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Watchung Post

ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL CENTER ANNUAL FUNDRAISING RAFFLE DINNER

St. Joseph Social Center invites the community to their Annual Fundraising Raffle Dinner to be held on October 17, 2019 at the Westwood in Garwood.

(above) Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark will be the guest speaker. Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.,

Archbishop of Newark, will be the event's guest speaker.

The Grand Raffle will be for 3 cash prizes: \$7,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000. Only 2,500 tickets will be sold so please get your tickets early!

The Tricky Tray and Restaurant Baskets will be better than ever. The evening at 6:30 p.m. so

you have more time to "shop" and mingle!

Your support of this crucial fundraiser supports existing food, health, counseling, job training, clothing, and seasonal programs.

To purchase dinner tickets, sponsorships, or make a donation, please visit sjeliz.org/special-events.

Since 1983, St. Joseph's has served the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth, New Jersey, by providing basic human needs such as food, clothing and medications, as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social services they need to live with integrity. St. Joseph's is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.



St. Joseph Social Service Center
Annual Fundraising Dinner
October 17, 2019

The Westwood, 438 North Avenue, Garwood, NJ ~ 6:30 PM

Grand Raffle Prizes

Grand Prize: \$7,500
 2nd Prize: \$1,500
 3rd Prize: \$1,000

Tricky Tray
at the Dinner

Grand Raffle
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Special Guest Speaker:
 Archbishop of Newark
 Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

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(above) Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark will be the guest speaker.

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