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GL HIGH SCHOOL'S NEWEST CLUB OFF TO A GREAT START

Submitted by Victoria Baum

Students in Governor Livingston High School's newest club, SMAC (Student Movement Against Cancer), haven't let the closure of the school building slow them down. SMAC's goal is to empower students across America to be the next generation of cancer fighters! Together, they fundraise for cancer research, raise awareness, and support individuals battling cancer.

SMAC held their first meeting in February and over 100 students joined. Students immediately began working to plan for an official Kick-Off and other fundraising events for this spring in an effort to raise money for both the Berkeley Heights Relay for Life and Camp Quality, NJ. Unfortunately, due to the current health crisis, these plans had to be postponed. However spirits remain high, and club members remain in touch with plans to come back stronger. Plus, thanks to a successful partnership with BHPS Technology Coordinator Mike Skara who recently ran the Backyard 50K to support SMAC, funds were raised for Berkeley Heights Relay for Life.

If you are interested in donating to the SMAC Relay for Life team, please visit https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR. SMAC asked that we express their appreciation to the community for their support of their efforts to fight cancer and look forward to officially kicking off in the fall!









(above) Students show off a shirt representing Governor Livingston High School's newest club, SMAC (Student Movement Against Cancer). Photos by Governor Livingston High School



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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email: editor@rennamedia.com

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- danger and out of Emergency Rooms. This refers to people with emergencies such as injuries, wound care, infections and our regular at-risk patients with conditions such as diabetes and severe circulatory/vascular issues.
- 3. If you have an urgent matter such as an infection or injury, we will work to get you in for an appointment as soon as possible. We have an x-ray in the office, so you do not have to visit a separate facility if you are in need.
- 4. If you are ill or have a fever, please stay home. Just give a call and we will reschedule at a later date.
- 5. Due to the social distancing recommendations, at the office we request that you come alone. If not possible, then bring no more than one person with you.

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RESTORATION COMMITTEE SELLS MOM T-SHIRTS FOR A PANDEMIC CAUSE

Submitted by Carol Goggi The Mountainside Restoration Committee recently sold "Marvelous Mountainside Mom" t-shirts for Mother's Day with profits going toward the #mountainsidecares group.

Mountainside Cares was formed by a group of Mountainside ladies to raise funds applied immediately to a variety of causes related to needs resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Forty t-shirts were sold in a 1-week period which were delivered to doorsteps throughout Mountainside. Funds raised in this t-shirt sale were distributed by #mountainsidecares to the Mountainside Volunteer Rescue Squad for the purchase of much-needed PPE.

The shirts were offered via local facebook pages. There is a limited supply of the shirts still available for \$10 each, and they can be ordered online at mountainsidehistory.org for doorstep delivery in Mountainside.

The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a 501(c)3 charity and a committee of volunteers whose purpose is to restore and maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House and the Levi Cory House and collect and save historic information and items from destruction. For further information or to donate funds for historic restoration, please call 908-789-9420; or, go to mountainsidehistory.org.



(above) Diane Kontra holds a newly delivered "Marvelous Mountainside Mom" t-shirt. The Mountainside Restoration Committee sold the t-shirts to benefit #mountainsidecares helping in local pandemic relief.





JULIENNE CHERRY TAKES HELM AT CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP CASA

Submitted by Gretchen M. Boger-O'Bryan Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is pleased to announce the selection of Julienne Cherry as its new Executive Director. The organization recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to



(above) Julienne Cherry has joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as its new Executive Director.

advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned Union County youth removed from home and living in foster care.

"Julienne's history in the nonprofit arena, as well as her experience, knowledge and connections within the state, make her ideal to lead CASA of Union County. The board is excited to welcome her to the organization just as it celebrates 15 years of advocacy for our community's foster youth," said Dr. Ron Silver, president of the organization's Board of Trustees.

She joins the Elizabeth-based nonprofit from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside, where she was Director of Agency Relations, overseeing more than 1,000 feeding programs in eight New Jersey counties. Among Cherry's community service efforts in Union County are serving on the board of Moms Helping Moms, a diaper and baby supply bank in Plainfield, and remaining active with the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Eta Omicron Zeta, including serving as its Health Fair Chair. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kean University.

"I'm very thankful for the wonderful opportunity to join the CASA family," said Cherry. "As a resident of Union County, this new position aligns perfectly with the last 20-plus years I've devoted to advocating for our community's underserved and voiceless. I'm

looking forward to meeting with key stakeholders and community members to help move our mission forward. Ensuring the best interests of every Union County youth in foster care through no fault of their own will remain my top priority. As the organization reaches its 15th year of advocacy, the goal continues to be providing an advocate for every fragile youth that needs one. To do this, we need the support of our village. From monthly gives, employer matches and event sponsorships to corporate and business partnerships, every dollar of support for our small-but-mighty nonprofit directly impacts how many waiting foster youth we can reach. Simply, writing a check means writing another chapter. Help us Change a Child's Story."

Through court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers ensure the best interests of foster youth remain a priority while parties work toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home. There are nearly 500 Union County youth in foster care and the organization currently serves just over half those. Its goal is to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one.

To make a tax-deductible donation, log on to casaofunioncounty.org/donate. To learn about how to become an advocate for a foster child, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org or Call 908-293-8136.







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ROTARY DONATED CRITICAL COVID 19 CARE EQUIPMENT Submitted by Rotary International District 7475

Rotary International District 7475 has donated much needed critical care equipment to Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ to help with the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Overlook Hospital renovated two additional floors to become ICU units, and sought funding to help purchase the equipment. They have ordered 20 Critical Care Beds, model Hillrom Progressa Bed System. The beds can be upgraded in the future and cost \$34,000 each and have technology to help patients breath. The hospital does not like to transfer patients between beds, because it increases the risk of nonsocomial infections, which means getting an infection in the hospital. Therefore, these beds are designed to be used in other therapeutic modalities. They are designed to be mobile- you can wheel them down the hall to other departments. The useful life of one of these high tech beds is 12 to 15 years. Each bed could potentially save thousands of lives.

The Rotary District 7475 consists of 82 Rotary Clubs representing 2000 Rotarians in 9 counties







of northern New Jersey including Mountainside. Hospital chains share equipment as needed, or Rotary is a business networking and service club of successful business men and women who want to give back to their community. There are 1.2 millions Rotarians in 166 countries around the world. Most of the Rotarians in the District donate to the International Foundation, which circulates the funds back for use in our local communities. Past District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart is the Foundation Chair for the District. He was able to write a grant proposal which was matched by The Rotary International Foundation totaling \$34,000 to purchase one bed

Rotary Global Grants require an international partner. District 7475 has done many Global Grants, typically 10 grants per year with many clubs and districts around the world. This is one of the first few grants done in the United States in the last 20 years. For this particular grant, the Rotary Club of Berwick, Victoria Australia is our international partner. Last year our New Jersey District raised \$20,000 to help them with their wildfires which were out of control.

for Overlook Hospital.

Dr. D. Michael Hart stated "The rest of the world thinks Americans are rich and do not need any help. This program is a good example of how Rotary International can help people right here in a time of crisis."

Dr. Hart recently wrote two other grants totaling \$100,000 to purchase 10 ventilators for Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, NJ and RWJ Barnabas Hospital in Somerset, NJ. Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas is the largest health system in New Jersey with 15 hospitals. Overlook is part of the Atlantic Health System with 5 hospitals.

divert patients to open hospital wards as needed, so these donations will help the two largest health systems in New Jersey.

Rotary International is one of the premier charitable institutions in the world. Since 1985, Rotary has been working to eradicate Polio worldwide. Rotary raises \$50 million per year for the effort, and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches Rotary's fundraising efforts at a rate of 2:1. In other words, Gates contributes \$100 million per year. Rotary works in conjunction with The World Health Organization which can deal with the political issues in each country; Rotarians are the "boots on the ground" actually vaccinating the children; and the CDC and UNICEF help with funding. Polio has no cure and no treatment, but it does have a vaccine. The virus only lives in humans, so once it is eradicated, it will be gone forever. It predominately strikes children under the age of 5 years old and causes paralysis. FDR had polio as a child and was paralyzed for life. He started a charity to fight this disease in 1938. After his death, in 1946, his likeness was put on a dime and the slogan and name "The March of Dimes" was started for the fight against polio. Rotary has eradicated 99.9% of the cases in the entire world since 1985. There were 94 new cases of polio in 2019, mostly in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Only one other disease has been completely eradicated worldwide which is smallpox.

Locally, the Rotary Club of Mountainside meets for lunch weekly. To attend a meeting, or for more information, please contact Rose Marie Sinisi, rotaryrose@yahoo.com, 908-625-8308.

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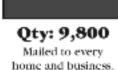
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