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## ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE AT LINCOLN SCHOOL

*Submitted by Tammy Benc*

The annual food drive at Lincoln School in Garwood was a success! Students and their families together with staff

members donated 977 pounds of canned, boxed, and bagged food items. Members of the Knights of Columbus prepared baskets and delivered them to local families in need.



(above) Students and staff members at Lincoln School in Garwood donated 977 pounds of food items!

Photo by Garwood Public Schools



## TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION

Garwood P.B.A. Local 117 will be participating in the 2021 U.S.M.C. Toys For Tots. Please take the time to donate new, unwrapped, boys or girls toys during this holiday season. Drop off is at Garwood Police Headquarters now thru December 15, 2021. Our Marine Corps sponsors will be the United States Marine Corps Reserves, Golf Company, 2/25 Infantry Unit. This is the same unit our own LT. Samuel Rocco and SGT. PJ Lewis honorably served in. Please help us brighten a child's holiday by donating.

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# WELCOME GARWOOD DAISY TROOP 41005

## GarwoodTimes NJ

### Renna Media LLC, Publishers

202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Garwood Times is published by Renna Media. 2,200 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in the Garwood.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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Garwood Times

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[joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com)

The Garwood Girl Scouts are growing as they welcome Garwood Daisy Troop 41005 led by Vanessa Schubring, Kimberly Salmon, Kate Nicastro, and Jessica Heyder. On Saturday, October 23rd, 11 girls from Garwood Lincoln School, 9 kindergartners and 2 1st graders, had

their pinning ceremony.

The girls are anxious to start their journey and gain all their petals. As a new Troop, the girls are looking forward to working with the older Girl Scout troops and giving back to their community.



## FIREMAN VISITS PRESCHOOLERS

Students at the Garwood Family Center YMCA have been learning all about Fire Safety. To wrap up discussions and lessons, Lieutenant Gergich of the Linden Fire Department and father of a student in the Tigers class recently visited and spoke to all of the preschool classes on the importance of Fire Safety.

The Garwood Family Center YMCA is located at 500 East Street in Garwood. To learn more about full-day and half-day preschool programs

and school age child care, contact Shannon McGillis Jackson, Director, at [smcgillis@westfieldynj.org](mailto:smcgillis@westfieldynj.org) or 908-301-1616 x 610.

The Y is for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Financial assistance is available for YMCA programs and memberships for those who qualify. For more information, please visit [westfieldynj.org](http://westfieldynj.org).

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(above) Class dad and fireman Lieutenant Gergich with students from the Tigers preschool class at the Garwood Family Center YMCA.





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## STUDENTS WIN ANTI-DRUG POSTER CONTEST

### GARWOOD PTA BOOK BASKET RAFFLE

\$10 Per Ticket - Drawing is on 12/10/21

Winner need not be present  
<http://tinyurl.com/PTABookRaffle>

All Proceeds will be used towards replacing the old Lincoln School water fountains with new water bottle refill stations.

Any questions please contact Debbie Peniche  
[Debbie.GarwoodPTA@gmail.com](mailto:Debbie.GarwoodPTA@gmail.com)



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#### Garwood Public Schools

At Lincoln School in Garwood, Mrs. Planer, an art teacher, and Mrs. Parkhill, a student assistance counselor, recently announced that seven of their students were winners in the Prevention Links Red Ribbon Anti-Drug Poster Contest in Union County.

The students used their creativity to illustrate activities that they do to keep away from drugs. They worked hard on their posters and were

thrilled with their win. Students received awards and gift cards from Prevention Links at the Red Ribbon Prevention Walk and Family Fun Fall Festival at Nomahegan Park on October 16th.

In the eighth grade, Bellamy Molina won 1st place, Brendan Ryan won 2nd place, and Isabela Lind won 3rd place. In the seventh grade, Caitlyn Marcazo won 1st place and Luca Difabio won 2nd place. In the fifth grade, Emma Ferrara won 1st place and Jacob Augustyn won 2nd place.



(above) Five Winners of Anti-Drug Poster Contest

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CO-ED SOCCER TEAM'S IMPRESSIVE SEASON

#### Submitted by Matthew Burke

The Garwood Middle School Co-ed Soccer Team finished their season with an impressive 10-1 record this fall. Eighth graders, Leo Ruggiero and Anthony DiIorio, led the Mustangs offensively, both finishing with double digit goal totals. Also, Matthew Marczydlo and Keegan Parkhill, eighth graders, Arturo Palacio, a seventh grader, and Arthur Silva, a sixth grader, were big contributors on offense.

Defensively, the team was led by eighth graders, Dylan Mason, Mitchell Goodell, Aidan

Rogers, Jack Zennario, and Brendan Ryan, as well as seventh grader, Matt Ruggiero. Gianna Mormile, an eighth grader, was phenomenal in goal all year, but really shined in posting a 1-0 shutout against rival Wardlaw-Hartridge on October 1st. The future is bright for the team as up-and-coming sixth grade players, James Peniche, Henry Ruggiero, Deniz Bek, and Collin Maloney, as well as seventh grade player, Stanislaw Walentek, all helped contribute to the team's success. In addition, the team was coached by Matt Burke and Danielle Libutti.



(above) The Garwood Middle School Co-ed Soccer Team



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## GARWOOD LIBRARY DECEMBER EVENTS

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Monday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.,  
Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Closed December 24 and 25 for the Christmas Holiday and December 31 for New Year's Eve

## HOLIDAY SEASON EVENTS

Garwood Celebrations Committee

### DECEMBER BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 15th,  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

at the Columbian Club, 37 South Ave,  
Garwood. Tickets \$15 each (for all ages 3 years  
and up) includes hot brunch buffet, free santa  
picture, raffles and more. Tickets can be  
purchased at the Garwood Library and  
Garwood Borough Hall.

### CHRISTMAS HOUSE DÉCOR CONTEST

To participate email your address to  
GarwoodCelebrations@garwood.org  
no later than Dec. 20th.

Win in one of the 3 categories: Chevy Chase,  
Most Festive, and Most Traditional. Winners  
will be announced on Christmas Eve.

### MENORAH LIGHTING

Monday Dec 23rd, 5:00 p.m.  
at Garwood Borough Hall.  
Free community event with  
hot chocolate, and donuts.

### Holiday Photo Station

December 1- December 23

Come take your holiday picture at our do-it-  
yourself Holiday Photo Station complete with a  
festive new backdrop and a cardboard Santa.  
Goodie bags for kids available while supplies  
last.

### Library Board Meeting

December 1 at 7:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Garwood Library Board of  
Trustees will take place in the Library. This  
meeting is open to the public. Masks and social  
distancing are required

### Space Adventures via Zoom

December 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 3:30 p.m.

Join us in a trip across the solar system,  
exploring planets, moons, and asteroids, while  
creating and coding their own animated  
Captain's log using age-appropriate Scratch Jr.  
coding language. For kids in grades K-2nd.  
Registration required. Limit 10. Once registered  
a Zoom link will be provided.

### Storytime in the Library

December 7, 14, and 21 at 10:30 a.m. and  
11:30 a.m.

Join Miss Maryanne for a Storytime, stories,  
bubbles and more at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
in the library. Registration Required. Limit 10

per session

### Virtual Kid's Craft

December 14, at 3 p.m.

Pick up supplies for a Holiday inspired craft  
and then watch craft tutorial on the Library's  
Facebook page at 3 p.m. The video will be  
available for viewing thereafter. Registration is  
required for craft kits and is limited to 15  
participants. Sign up on the Library website's  
events calendar or by phone.

### Virtual Adult Craft

December 14 at 3 p.m.

Pick up your craft supplies from the Library for  
a holiday inspire craft and then watch the  
Facebook tutorial at 3 p.m. Registration is  
required for craft kits and is limited to 10  
participants. Sign up on the Library website's  
events calendar or by phone.

### Book Discussion Group

December 20 at 1 p.m.

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of  
this month's book "Comfort and Joy" by Kristin  
Hannah.

### New Year's Grab and Go

December 30

Pick up a New Year's party and craft bag while  
supplies last. For kids in grades K-8.

## GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB NEWS

Garwood Senior Club president Pat DiFabio is  
pleased to announce that from now on the  
Garwood Seniors will meet at the Columbian  
Club Hall (Knights of Columbus Building) on  
South Avenue.

In other news, it was voted upon, and passed  
unanimously, at the last meeting to accept new  
members at age 55 and over. It is anticipated that  
the lowering of the age limit will encourage new  
members to come in and join the group. This  
year's slate of officers are: Pat DiFabio,  
President; George Diers, Vice President; Bruce  
Paterson, Treasurer; and Rita Unnold, Recording

Secretary.

The Garwood Senior Club meets the 1st and  
3rd Thursday of each month. Dues are \$10  
annually and are payable in January 2022. At the  
group's meetings, lunch is available and bingo is  
played. Occasionally there are guest speakers to  
enlighten the group on topics of interest or on  
health/safety issues. Kathleen Wierzbinski, the  
Senior Citizen Director, provides a monthly  
calendar of activities for Garwood's seniors. You  
can contact her at 908-789-0710 to inquire about  
joining the Senior Club or getting on the mailing  
list for the calendar.

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# KELLY RYAN SWORN IN AS FOSTER YOUTH ADVOCATE

CASA of Union County

The latest class of community members to step up and train as advocates for Union County foster youth have taken their oath before a Union County Superior Court Judge and are now ready to be matched to their case as the newest volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County. Among them is Kelly Ryan of Garwood.

The nonprofit, which began in Union County in 2005, recruits, trains, supports, and supervises volunteers to serve local child-victims removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, and living in foster care. It is the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for Union County judges hearing youth cases.

Superior Court Judge Lara DiFabrizio presided over the swearing-in ceremony via Zoom; once matched to their youth or sibling set, advocates will begin putting their 30 hours of training into practice. Ryan was joined by fellow classmates Jenn White and Alayne Morgenthal of Westfield, and Annie Kang of Berkeley Heights.

Says Ryan, "I'm so glad that I have the opportunity to volunteer with the CASA organization. Every kid deserves a loving, safe home and I'm happy that I can help with the process to ensure this."

Volunteers need no special prior background

or experience to serve as advocates; each undergoes a thorough training process and is supported by CASA staff. Successful advocates bring with them varied life experiences and professional backgrounds. No matter the age of the youth to whom they are assigned, advocates' commitment to being a consistent presence – many foster youth experience a revolving door of professionals in addition to the separation from family members – and ensuring needs are identified and recommendations are made to the judge and stakeholders, the trajectory of a child's life can be changed for the better.

Upon being court-ordered to a case, the CASA volunteer has access to the youth, foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers in order to identify and report to the judge any concerns and needs in order to protect best interests.

The organization remains committed to serving every Union County youth in foster care; to do that, more community volunteers are needed to step up and train as an advocate for a local child-victim who could range from birth to age 21.

Contact Lucia at [field@casaoofunioncounty.org](mailto:field@casaoofunioncounty.org) for details on upcoming information sessions, how to join a training class, and all the ways you can Change a Child's Story.

# THE GIVING TREE

Please help St. Joseph's Social Service Center make the holidays special. We have over 400 households registered for our Giving Tree program and would appreciate your support to make this happen!

The easiest way to help is to donate \$25 gift cards (preferably Visa, American Express, or Walmart), supermarket gift cards of any amount (preferably Shoprite or Stop and Shop), or make a financial donation by visiting: [www.sjeliz.org/donate](http://www.sjeliz.org/donate) - please mention Giving Tree in the "note" section. To make a donation by mail: Send your gift card or check to: St. Joseph Social Service Center, 118 Division St., Elizabeth, NJ 07201-2736.

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. To view our Form 990, visit [www.sjeliz.org/about-us.html](http://www.sjeliz.org/about-us.html).

# LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

Safe+Sound Somerset

You may have heard about the increase in domestic violence since the start of the pandemic as families are forced to shelter in place. Since then, Safe+Sound Somerset has seen a 40% increase in calls and texts to our 24/7 domestic violence hotline – even as it has become harder for those experiencing domestic abuse to reach out for help. Domestic abuse is a pattern of controlling, threatening, degrading and violent behaviors by a partner. Abuse takes many forms, including emotional, psychological, physical, sexual and financial.

If someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse or dating violence, we can help.

24/7 Confidential Hotline - Call or text 866-685-1122. For more information visit [www.safe-sound.org](http://www.safe-sound.org).



(above) Ceremony via Zoom: Top Row: Alayne Morgenthal of Westfield, Annie Kang of Berkeley Heights, and Kelly Ryan of Garwood. Bottom Row: Judge Lara DiFabrizio and Jenn White of Westfield.

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## GRIEF SUPPORT FACILITATORS NEEDED

*Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss*

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for children's grief support programs has never been greater. Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, a non-profit organization based in Mountainside and Newark, exists to support children in New Jersey who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or close family member. Imagine offers free peer support groups for children ages 3-18, young adults 19-30, and the parents and guardians of the children in the program. Groups for Spanish-speaking bereaved adults are also available. Currently, all groups are being held virtually, however, there are plans to transition some groups to in-person as soon as it feels safe to do so.

Imagine's support groups are only possible because of our amazing team of volunteers who facilitate the groups. Imagine currently has a wait list of families looking to join our support groups. We are unable to offer them support at this time because we do not have enough volunteers to begin another Night of Support. We need your help!

Imagine's volunteer facilitators come from all walks of life and no special background is required, other than, a willingness to listen, a heart inclined to serve, and the ability to be with children and adults in grief without trying to fix, solve, or give advice. No prior experience is necessary, but volunteers must be 18 years or older. Bilingual (Spanish-speaking) volunteers are needed as well. Volunteers serve as companions and caring listeners for those who are grieving to help create a safe space where participants can share tears and embrace the joys of life.

We are hoping to fill our upcoming training with lots of wonderful new volunteers! We are planning to offer virtual facilitator training December

10-12th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For information on joining Imagine's team of volunteers, please contact Imagine's Program Manager, Veronica Ortiz, by emailing [veronica@imaginej.org](mailto:veronica@imaginej.org), or by calling 908-264-3100. Please help us address the growing need for children's grief support and ensure that no grieving child is required to wait to receive the support they need.

## FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP — DEC. 21

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness? NAMI Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of people with mental illnesses. The group is led by NAMI-trained facilitators and is a peer support group that allows participants to gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

Free Zoom sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. To register, email Denise at: [namiunioncounty@yahoo.com](mailto:namiunioncounty@yahoo.com) with your name, town, and phone number.

## TATUM DOBBINS' SIGNING DAY

*Submitted by Gus Kalikas, Athletic Director*

On Wednesday, November 10, 2021, various staff members and administration at Arthur L. Johnson High School participated in a signing day ceremony to honor Tatum Dobbins, a field hockey player, for her years of service to Crusader Athletics as well as to commemorate her signing her Nation Letter of Intent to play NCAA Collegiate Athletics at the University of Towson for the Tigers.

Some of her field hockey accolades include...

- Four Year Varsity Gold Letter Winner |  
- Field Hockey — Grades 09-12
- First Team All-Conference Field Hockey  
- Grades 10-11
- First Team All-Union County Field Hockey  
- Grades 10-11
- First Team All-North Jersey Field Hockey  
- Grades 10-11
- First Team All-State Group 1 - Grade 11
- 2021 New Jersey's Top 100  
Senior Field Hockey Players - Grade 12

With many more accolades on the way for this past fall season...

With all of her time outside of field hockey, Tatum is involved in...

- Peer Leadership - Grades 11-12
- Heroes and Cool Kids (high school  
- middle school relations) - Grades 11-12
- Blue Cru - High School Spirit Club  
- (President) — Grade 12
- Boys Lacrosse Manager - Grades 10-12
- "Hospital Bags for Patient Families"  
at Goryeb Children's Hospital - Grade 12
- In addition to all this, she was this year's  
Homecoming Queen! - Grade 12

Tatum has been an integral part of the success of our athletic programs while competing at Arthur L. Johnson High School. More importantly, she has been a model student athlete that did things the right way both on the field, in the classroom, and throughout our community. Although it will be sad to see her leave, the Crusader's loss is Towson's gain, and we look forward to following her successful collegiate athletic career over the next four years.

Crusader Athletics would like to wish the best of luck to Tatum as she culminates her wonderful career for the Crusaders this year and continues her academic and athletic success as a collegiate student athlete.



(above) Tatum Dobbins with her family at the Signing Day event.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR MEDICAL CORPS

The New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – a network of community-based, locally organized units comprised of volunteers – is looking for reinforcements, particularly those with vaccination skills. MRC volunteers are especially vital during emergencies and disasters when paid public health and emergency response assets are overwhelmed. Healthcare professionals (including recently retired individuals) having vaccination skills are

especially needed now that COVID-19 vaccines are available.

In addition to skilled vaccinators, individuals with all types of skill sets (for example, security, language translation/interpretation, education and outreach, warehouse operations, clerical, counseling, and more) are needed. If you are interested in volunteering with the MRC, visit [njlmn.njlincs.net](http://njlmn.njlincs.net) and click on "Register as an Existing or New MRC Volunteer!"



# GETTING BACK INTO SCIENCE LAB

Garwood Public Schools

8th grade students in Garwood's Lincoln School have been busy getting back into the science lab this Fall as part of their curriculum for the physical science program. Many hands-on activities include discovering the physical and chemical properties of matter. Students are required to measure matter using triple beam

balances, look for evidence of reactions such as bubbles, changes in temperature, and new substances being formed, and collaborate together. Mrs. Bree is so proud of her young scientists in training and had so much fun playing with the states of matter and oobleck, the non-Newtonian fluid!

Photos by Garwood Public Schools



Photos by Garwood Public Schools



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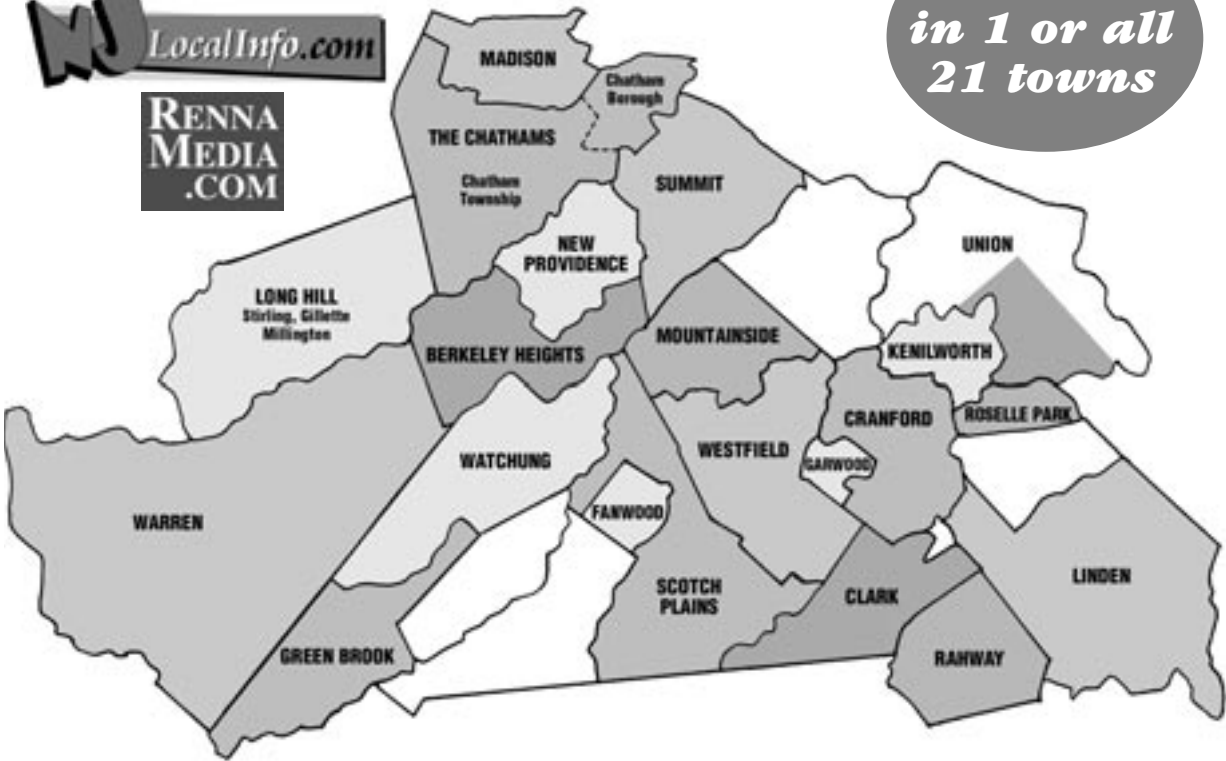
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
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# ELF THE MUSICAL JR. TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## Community Access Unlimited

A triumphant musical returning this December promises holiday cheer, a lot of laughs, and possibly too much sugar.

Tickets for Elf the Musical Jr. are now

available for showings on December 10, 11, and 12th. All shows are streaming virtually at 7:00 p.m. for audiences to enjoy at home. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased on line at: [www.showtix4u.com/event-details/57483](http://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/57483)



The CAU Community Players are an inclusive group of performers with and without disabilities who collaborate to stage incredible musical performances, including past productions of Hairspray and Aladdin. Community Access Unlimited (CAU) is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that works to integrate people with disabilities and youth at-risk into the community through comprehensive ways.

The cast of the show is thrilled to return to the stage after months of virtual rehearsals and preparation. Performers used clear masks to interact safely while allowing the audience to enjoy their expressions.

“The point of the show is to fill everyone with Christmas spirit,” said Tyler O’Neill, who plays Buddy. “I’m discovering a side I never thought I had and a lot of joy. And like Buddy, I too enjoy a good hug every now and again.”

Adam Fleissner, who plays Buddy’s cantankerous father, Walter, said he is excited for everyone’s hard work to pay off in the final production after a hiatus last year, due to the pandemic.

“It’s the first time doing a CAU play since the shutdown and I just love seeing everyone again,” said Fleissner.

Proceeds from the play support CAU’s comprehensive services for people with disabilities and youth at-risk, which include housing, education, employment, support coordination, and life skills training.

This adaptation of the hilarious, hit film is sure to warm hearts as we prepare for the holiday season.

“I want people to get tickets so they can laugh hard,” said cast member Ernie Smalls.

## ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED:

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), who is celebrating 42 years in 2021, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voices to adults and the youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization, and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 3,000 individuals and families, with the number growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at [caunj.org](http://caunj.org), or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202.

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