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POLICE HEADQUARTERS DEDICATED TO CAPTAIN JIMENEZ

On Tuesday, January 11, 2022 a dedication ceremony was held in the Roselle Park Council Chambers honoring Roselle Park Police Captain Manuel “Manny” Jimenez.

Police Chief Daniel McCaffery officiated the event. Below is an excerpt of his remarks. The ceremony can be viewed in full on the Roselle Park Police Facebook page.

We are here today to honor and recognize Roselle Park Police Captain Manuel Jimenez, or “Manny” as we all knew him.

Captain Jimenez was a 28-year veteran officer of the Roselle Park Police Department. During his long career with our department, he was the recipient of numerous departmental awards, and he was dedicated to his profession. Captain Jimenez was a friend, a co-worker, and leader within our department. He single-handedly moved our department forward with his initiatives, forward-thinking, and his desire to see our police department be as good as it could be. He had a hand in every facet of our department. He was extremely well-respected throughout Union County and New Jersey for his knowledge and police abilities.

After the attacks on September 11th 2001, he volunteered to go to Ground Zero. He volunteered. He wasn’t assigned there; he approached the Chief and he asked to go. He saw the destruction, the chaos, the uncertainty, and the death, and he still went. And then he went again, multiple times. He changed lives, he helped lives, he provided comfort and he ultimately paid with his own life.

Like so many others, Captain Jimenez, Manny, our friend, contracted illnesses directly related to his service at the Ground Zero World Trade Center Site. Manny fought a brave public fight against his illnesses, and he was an inspiration to all those that he encountered with his fighting spirit. Even towards the very end of his fight, this past summer he mustered up the strength and he traveled to Europe, and he traveled to Puerto Rico because he wanted his wife Eli to see these places with him.

We are here today to honor Captain Jimenez by dedicating our Police Headquarters in his memory. Not just because he died a hero as a result of his actions as a Roselle Park Police Officer, but for how he lived his life, and the positive impact that he had while alive.

It is my distinct honor to host this event and to unveil this plaque today which was memorialized by resolution and will be permanently, forever mounted in the outer foyer of our Police Headquarters for all those who enter to see, honor, and remember Captain Jimenez.



*(above) Roselle Park Police Captain
Manuel “Manny” Jimenez*



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ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY

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ROTARY ROSELLE-ROSELLE PARK'S STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Bob Zeglarski

Rotary Roselle-Roselle Park announced Students of the Month: Carolina Pereira of Roselle Park High School, Nicole Terry of Roselle Catholic High School and Lincoln Contreras of Abraham Clark High School were honored as Rotary's Students of the Month Ceremony during a recent meeting of the club.

Rotarian Sarah Costa coordinates the program with assistance from Rotarian Courtney Washington. Students are honored monthly with a plaque, a gift certificate to Barnes and Noble, and an opportunity to address the club in the presence of their guidance counselors, parents, special guests, and club members. Everyone also enjoys the best breakfast in Rotary by Rotarian Julie Pinho.

The guest speaker was Barbara Koppel of Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, who serves the

families of pediatric cancer patients. Ms. Koppel, Regional Director for the Foundation, expressed to the students just how thankful the parents that the Foundation served were thankful for the services they received, especially the donation of food, during the height of the pandemic.

The Rotary Club of Roselle-Roselle Park is a 97-year-old service organization serving the Twin Boroughs. The club is part of Rotary International, which has 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries around the world. The club meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom, the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 a.m. in person at the Roselle Community Center, and the third Thursday of the month for a dinner at Costs's Restaurant in Roselle Park, NJ. Rotary's motto is Service Above Self.

Lend a hand! For more information visit roselle-roselleparkrotary.org.

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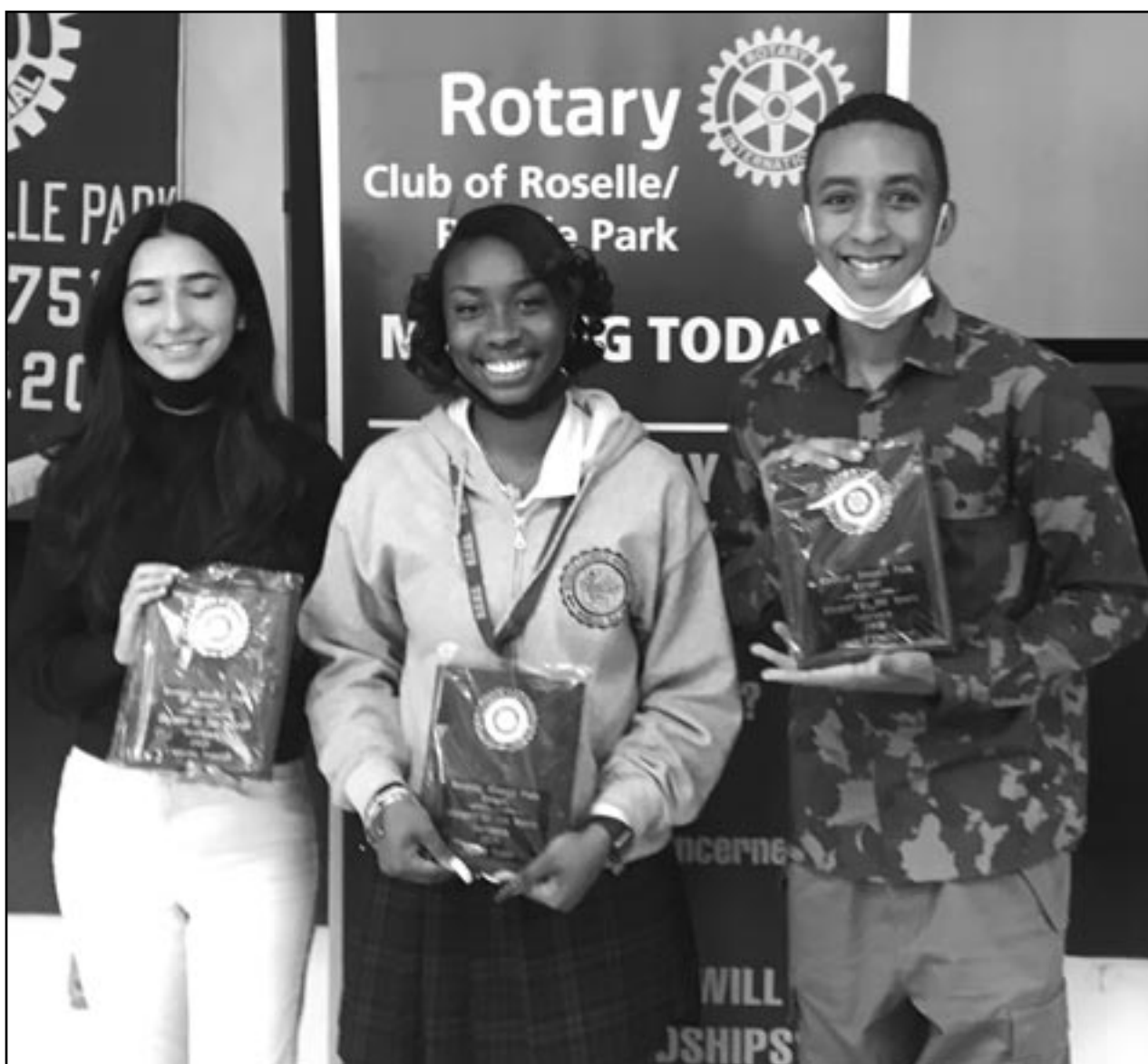
Submitted by Gerald Vitale

The Roselle Park Knights of Columbus #3240 is having a Super Bowl Do-It-Yourself Pizza Kit Fundraiser. It was a big hit this past summer and the kids loved it!

Each kit includes two semi-cooked personal pizzas, mozzarella cheese, and tomato sauce, and costs \$12 per kit.

Kits must be ordered and paid for by Sunday, February 6, 2022. Orders can be made by calling Ben Farina at 908-578-6235 and if using checks, please make them payable to K of C #3240. Further, pickup is on Friday, February 11, 2022 from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Thank you for all the support and stay safe!



(above, l-r) Rotary Roselle-Roselle Park's Students of the Month: Carolina Pereira, Nicole Terry, and Lincoln Contreras

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RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain. Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation. Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS

Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain." - Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal." - Perry O.

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is "top-notch." - Question L.



COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY REFLECTS ON 2021 SUCCESSES

The Community Food Pantry in the Borough of Roselle Park has continued to provide food to qualified residents in need for many years. The center provided food for more than 300 residents during the pandemic to help fight hunger. In 2021 altogether, more than 150 people received meals from the Community Food Pantry. This included baskets during Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hurricane Ida.

"I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments of the Community Food Pantry this past year," said Mayor Joe Signorello. "These donations have helped hundreds of Roselle Park families in need throughout the entire year, and I hope the pantry continues to collect even more donations in 2022."

The Borough thanks the Roselle Park School District for helping reach out to vulnerable students and their families. A thank you is also extended to Community United Methodist Church, Girl and Boy Scouts of Roselle Park, local businesses, organizations, and residents for their generous donations that help maintain a well-stocked food pantry.

The Community Food Pantry is open every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. for Roselle Park residents. Please visit the Casano Community Center located at 314 Chestnut Street, Roselle Park, NJ to apply, or call 908-245-0666 for more information.

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- STEM classes
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- Award Winning Forensics Program
- Active Home School Association
- Financial Assistance through the Archdiocese of Newark

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AT THE ROSELLE PARK VETERANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

RPVML BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Feb 16th @ 7:00 PM
Open forum discussing Library resolutions and news

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS: KNITTING CLUB

Wednesdays 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Knit hats and scarves to donate to local Union County organizations for the colder months - Basic help for beginners available

ESL FOR ADULTS

Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Come and practice your conversational English skills

PUZZLE HOUR

Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30 PM
Let's do a puzzle together!! ALL AGES WELCOME!

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS:

RHYMES & RHYTHMS

Mondays 11:00 - 11:45 AM
Expand your child's literacy through classic nursery rhymes and songs

MAKER MONDAY

Mondays 4:00 - 5:00 PM
A new craft every week!

STORY PLAY

Tuesdays 11:00 - 11:30 AM
Move and groove along to a stellar story

BEDTIME STORY

Tuesdays 6:00 - 6:30 PM
PJs and stuffies encouraged

LET'S GO BILINGUAL

Wednesdays 11:00 - 11:45 AM - even weeks
Learn some basic Spanish, listen to a tale, and work on a craft

SENSORY SPROUTS

Wednesdays 11:00 - 11:45 AM - odd weeks
Enrich your toddler's senses through tactile learning

LEGO CLUB

Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30 PM
Open play and build LEGOs with friends

MOVE + GROOVE

Thursdays 10:30 - 11:15 AM
Get your blood pumping w/ Ms. Joanna

STORYTIME

Thursdays 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Stories, songs & crafts for all!!

PUZZLE HOUR

Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30 PM
Let's do a puzzle together!! ALL AGES WELCOME!

TALES W/ TEDDY

Fridays 11:00 - 11:30 AM
Bring your squishiest of cotton-stuffed friends to hear a fun story!

TODDLER PLAYGROUP

Fridays 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Open play for toddlers + parents

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS:

TEEN DROP-IN HOUR

Mondays 3:00 - 4:00 PM
Drop-in with our on-site Social Work Intern, Emma, for some crafts and games, or pop by just to chat

CHAPTER x CHAPTER BOOK CLUB

Tuesdays 4:00 - 5:00 PM
Read and review a new chapter each week from the latest teen reads among other young bibliophiles

WATCH & TALK

Tuesday, Feb 1st 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Discuss a recently watched episode of a cartoon with your friends

STEM CLUB 101

Tuesday, Feb 8th 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Science, Math + Tech challenges for the left-brained teens

ART CLUB

Tuesday, Feb 15th 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Learn how to create and critique art

BOARD GAME CLUB

Tuesday, Feb 22nd 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Learn how to play a new card or board game every month!

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DENNIS DAGOUNIS 2021-2022 UNION COUNTY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dennis Dagounis, a Science Teacher at Roselle Park High School, has been named 2021-2022 Union County Educator of the Year.

Mr. Dagounis has earned degrees in Nutritional Science/Education and Educational Administration. In his 21-year educational career, he has taught all levels of biology, environmental and earth science, and last year, 100% of his Advanced Placement (AP) Biology students passed the AP exam.

Dennis Dagounis had this to say "My goal is to design learning experiences that are student-centered and exploratory using real-life scenarios that enable students to think critically and collaborate to solve problems. One of my biggest accomplishments as an educator is integrating student choice into my lessons. I have found that as students interact with the content in ways that appeal to their interests and abilities, they are able to develop a stronger understanding of the concepts. As a strong advocate for allowing student voice and choice in problem-based science classrooms, I have shared this teaching style with colleagues and when presenting professional development and engaging in departmental and school-wide discussions.

Furthermore, having access to up-to-date technology and addressing instructional needs are critical as educators support their students as they move towards developing student-driven and engaging learning experiences. My overarching goal is to provide my students a safe space where they can share their opinions and encourage

conversations using claim, evidence and reasoning."

For the past few years Mr. Dagounis has overseen a cancer research student experience with Kean University, and served as the Chess Club Advisor and the Girls Volleyball Head Coach. He has also served as a member of the US Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Delegation to China in 2019.



(above) Dennis Dagounis
2021 -2022 Union County Educator of the Year
HS Science Teacher | Varsity Volleyball Coach
| Roselle Park High School

FREE EXERCISE CLASSES FOR SENIORS

The Borough of Roselle Park will continue to offer its free exercise classes throughout 2022. These classes take place at the Casano Community Center (314 Chestnut Street).

Monday through Friday starting at 11 a.m., exercise programs for seniors 55 and older are available. Activities include Healthy Bones, Chair Yoga, and Chair Aerobics. Free curb-to-curb transportation is available for seniors, as well. Monday through Thursday starting at 7 p.m., residents ages 18 and older can participate in Zumba, Yoga, and Meditation.

All classes are free for Roselle Park residents only and are limited to 25 people. To register, residents must visit the Casano Community Center with proof of residency. For more information on classes, please contact the Casano Community Center at (908)-245-0666.

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MEET FERNANDO PORRAS

By Jahi McDonald, CASA of Union County

By the time this goes to press, my three-month internship will have ended. What will endure, is getting to know and work alongside my fellow intern Fernando Porras. In addition to stepping up to serve as an intern a year ago — and working some 20+ hours a week since in that capacity — he is an active CASA volunteer, well into his second case as a child advocate.

From processing donor thank yous, navigating excel spreadsheets, seeking community involvement amid a virtual fundraising campaign, to shooting videos for social media, sorting and hauling holiday wish list toys, and even donning superhero costumes for Adoption Day, Fernando has been a patient, committed role model for CASA's critical work. His mantra, "Anything for the kids," is one I've heard him say countless times but seen him put into action even more.

While being an advocate and yearlong intern is plenty for a CASA of Union County highlight, it's his personal journey, and all he's made of it, that shines even brighter. After his first CASA case — a 13-year-old boy — closed, he immediately began his current case, advocating for 5- and 10-year-old brothers. His visits, he says, often include intense Beyblades battles. "I remember playing with Beyblades at that age, so it's even more memorable to bond over something I'm familiar with. Also, superheroes! Maybe I'm still a kid at heart," he quips, adding, "As an advocate, you read about their life in stacks of paperwork, but being able to spend time with them as they enjoy the little things? It gives me such a different perspective on life." When he sees their smiles, he says, he's overcome with joy.

And joy is something — like every CASA youth — that Fernando deserves. In April 2018, a month before his college graduation, he was diagnosed with leukemia. He says, "Though I was told the diagnosis was just a matter of 'bad luck' ... my life turned upside down." Sparing the details of hospitalizations, procedures and finishing the tail-end of college amid unknowns and medical crises, let's take Fernando's lead and focus on the positive: August marked three years in remission. Continued monitoring from his medical team as well as navigating other lifelong health challenges resulting from the very treatments that saved his life are now his norm.

Fernando continues, "In summer 2019, I started trying to piece my life back together. I was discussing the future with a hospital social worker and she told me CASA would be a perfect fit. I'm so glad I took her words to heart; I did my research, went to an information session, and the rest is history."

In addition to advocating for three youth, the 25-year-old cancer survivor used the yearlong intern assignment as a sabbatical of sorts, undergoing an intensive and thorough LSAT study period and he's now amid the nerve-racking law school admissions process. I asked him how he juggles it all, when each ball carries great weight: "I've always been a 'yes' person. If something needs to be done, I'll do it. Some may not see that as a positive as I do ... but there's



(above) Fernando Porras

always time to do more."

In addition to enduring love and respect for his close-knit family, Fernando's fondness for travel also keeps him on his toes. Before he embeds himself in a law school lecture hall, there are plans to travel as much as possible, amid Covid-restraints and minding his health, of course. He recently visited family in Ecuador and soon will share his unwavering support for his beloved Atletico de Madrid soccer team with a jaunt to Spain.

When life was suddenly outside his firm grasp, Fernando reached wider and gripped harder, there's no question. Still, he's always sure to make time for the betterment of others' lives. He fondly quotes an uncle, "Never say you 'can't' do something, because what it really means is that you 'won't.' It's stuck with me and allowed me to work outside my comfort zone ... comfortably."

While experiences make you who you are — and in Fernando's case that certainly proves true — he also reminds me that people make those experiences. For us at CASA, that's Fernando. For Fernando, that's his family, including grandparents who modeled resiliency and hard work, lessons for which he is grateful. When, during the last weeks of his internship, Fernando unexpectedly lost his beloved grandfather, colleagues at services saw firsthand his tightly woven net that is family, and that his commitment to life and bettering it comes from a deep well of connection, generations old.

Asked to look back on recent years, when best-laid plans didn't happen and an unexpected diagnosis did, he offers: "I truly think everything happens for a reason. I'll always have an endless number of unanswered questions — but at the same time, I'll always be grateful that I found CASA of Union County."

In addition to serving as a fall marketing intern for CASA of Union County, Jahi McDonald is a 2020 graduate of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, with plans to begin a career in public relations and marketing.

ABOUT CASA OF UNION COUNTY

Volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving the county's abused, neglected or abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Advocates ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible.

It is CASA of Union County's goal that every Union County foster child have an advocate, yet half of the more than 500 such youth still await one. Could you be their voice? Contact Lucia to learn more lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org or visit casaoofunioncounty.org.



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FEBRUARY 14 IS NATIONAL ORGAN DONOR DAY

NJ Sharing Network

February 14 is all about sharing some love in New Jersey - and not just because it's Valentine's Day! NJ Sharing Network and its many healthcare partners and volunteers throughout the state are working together to register as many organ and tissue donors as possible in celebration of National Organ Donor Day.

"National Organ Donor Day is about taking action and inspiring others to learn more about how they can save lives through organ and tissue donation," said Joseph S. Roth, president and chief executive officer of NJ Sharing Network. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and restore health to over 75 people. I am confident that everyone's efforts on National Organ Donor Day will go a long way toward bringing hope to those currently waiting for a transplant."

Currently, there are over 110,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant.

However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. New Jersey's organ and tissue donor registrations continue to rise thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts as well as

simplified ways to register as an organ and tissue donor are also helping to save more lives. It is easy for New Jerseyans to register in any of the following options:

Online at NJSharingNetwork.org; Through the iPhone Health App; In person at your local Motor Vehicle Agency

Observed every year on February 14, National Organ Donor Day is dedicated to spreading awareness and education about organ and tissue donation. It is also a day to recognize loved ones who have given the gift of life, have received a transplant, are currently waiting or did not receive an organ in time. National Organ Donor Day was started in 1998 by the Saturn Corporation and its United Auto Workers partner with the support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and many non-profit health organizations.



(above) Cranford's Emma Rothman Celebrated 10 Years with Heart Transplant in 2021.

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

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HELP US SAVE A VET!!

Michael D. Boll, Director, New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years the New Jersey Veterans Network and its mobile outreach team has been aggressively seeking out veterans in need and providing them resources to have a better way of life. This is only possible because of our volunteers' commitment and dedication with helping our veteran community. Donations are wonderful and help us purchase food, clothing, medical equipment and other life changing items, however someone's time is what makes an enormous difference.

During our charity's existence, we have provided meals for thousands of veterans and servicemen, dropped off PPE and clothing to veterans, provided medical equipment for disabled veterans, had 30 cars donated to disabled veterans, and most importantly we successfully saved the lives of veterans who were in some type of a dangerous crisis.

Every day we lose approximately 22 veterans to suicide and unfortunately this number hasn't changed over the years. Depression, PTSD and trauma run extremely high among our veterans and their family members. There are countless lifesaving programs out there for veterans, however it's a difficult task to get veterans to trust others and go get the help they need to live a better life.

The New Jersey Veterans Network also has a program called Operation Rebound that consists of a mobile outreach team that helps to train veterans for events like races, hiking, and other athletic activities. The goal of Operation Rebound is to do athletic events from 5k races to long distance Iron Man competitions in order to empower the veterans and show the public how people can do amazing things with the proper support. It is truly incredible to see the veterans go from no physical activity to completing these tremendous athletic challenges.

Our charity has been able to work alongside other amazing charities that always put veterans first and are capable of rapidly providing them with essential resources. Recently, we formed a veteran anti-suicide and PTSD awareness coalition, called Uniformed Heroes, that will provide peer support sponsors for any veteran in need. Our peer support sponsors will be trained by the VA and Penn Med and our goal is to have volunteers statewide to help veterans in need.

To make this upcoming Uniformed Heroes

campaign successful, we are in desperate need of volunteers from both the veteran and civilian communities. There are numerous events and daily tasks that our charity could use assistance with and we are always looking to have more volunteers willing to help us reach veterans in need.

Our goal is to provide all veterans in need with a peer support sponsor that will do whatever they can to help veterans with obtaining the resources

needed to live a better life. This is not an easy thing to do, but the New Jersey Veterans Network has already been able to make a huge difference because of the team's volunteers and its strong partnerships with other charities.

If you are interested in joining the team, please send us an email at NJVN1775@gmail.com and provide your name, email, and phone number. Also, if you have any questions, and concerns please feel free to contact us at 973-332-1556.



(above) Knights of Columbus Tank Pull



(above) Memorial Day Murph Event



(above) Disabled Veteran BBQ Picnic



(above) Recycled Rides, Veteran Car Give Away Event

Photos by New Jersey Veterans Network

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New Jersey Youth Symphony Presents...

A Concert for PEACE

Leonard Bernstein's *Symphony No. 1 'Jeremiah'* for Orchestra and Mezzo-Soprano
Marvin Hamlisch's *Symphonic Suite: Anatomy of Peace*

February 26, 2022 • 7:00 pm

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Cierra Byrd
mezzo-soprano



New Jersey Youth Chorus
Patricia Joyce, director



NJYS Youth Symphony



Helen H. Cha-Pyo
artistic director and
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Marvin Hamlisch

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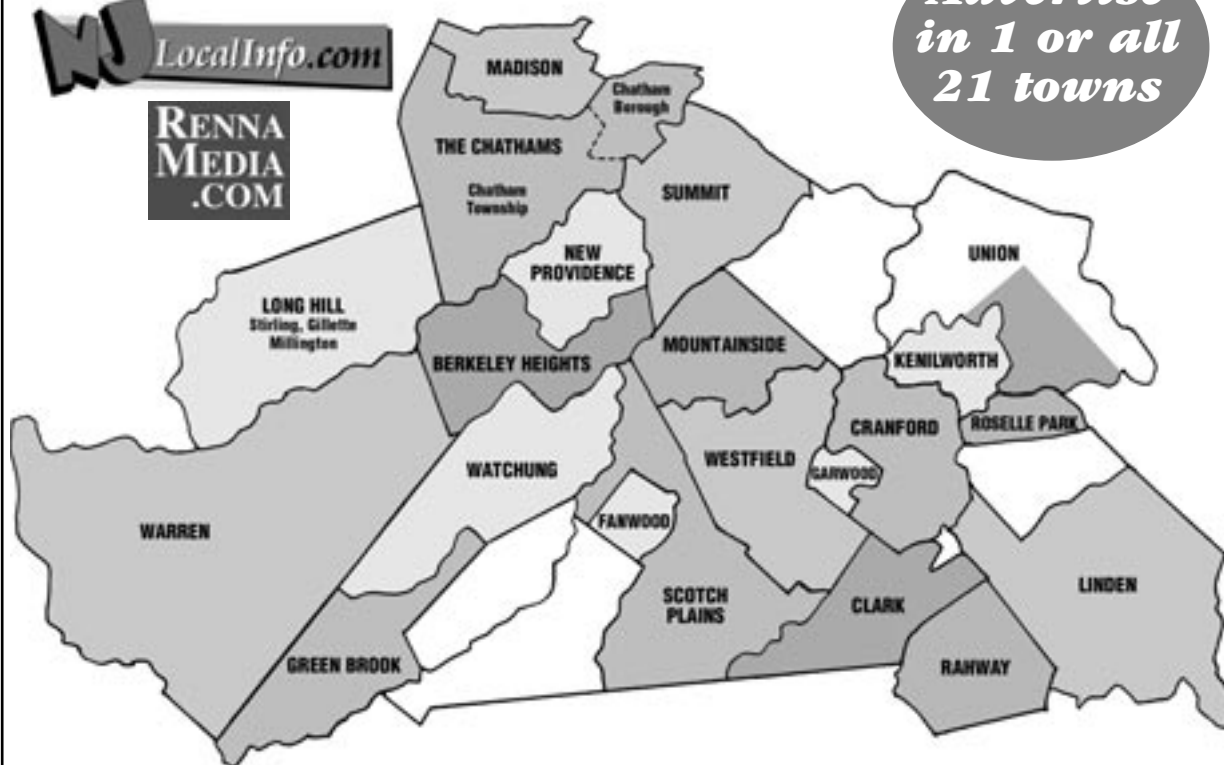
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“LOVE STORIES” CELEBRATES DOG ADOPTION EFFORTS

Home for Good Dog Rescue

Petco Love has generously granted Home for Good Dog Rescue \$55,000 towards the mission to leave no dog behind, treating critically ill and abused dogs with medical care at the “Almost Home Wellness Center” in Aiken, South Carolina, and preparing them to be welcomed into a New Jersey family. This show of support will significantly increase the number of dogs saved in 2022.

The mission of Petco Love is to celebrate the positive impact that dog adoption has on families.

Home for Good Dog Rescue is honored and proud to have once again been chosen to participate in this year’s Petco Love “Love Stories” campaign.

"Since 2016, Petco Love has supported the mission of Home for Good Dog Rescue. We are honored and humbled for once again being included in the Love Stories initiative, which shares the impactful stories of how adopted pets change the lives of their families," said Rich Errico, co-founder of Home for Good Dogs

Rescue. "The organization’s generosity makes a huge difference in our ability to save the lives of dogs in need and place them in loving forever homes."

Donna Foti, a two-time adopter of Clyde and Finn, was chosen for her heartfelt emphasis that her pups not only changed her life, but they actually “made” her life.

“For me, it’s all about giving and receiving love. And the most unconditional love that I have in my life - the love that fills my heart every single day - is the love that I share with my dogs,” says Foti.

The celebration held recently at the Petco in Clark, NJ was an extraordinary opportunity to share more about our Almost Home Wellness Center in Aiken, South Carolina, which is the heart of the rescue journey, where abused and discarded dogs are cared for, convalesce, and receive lots of love and affection until their journey to New Jersey to find their “home for good”. Home for Good Dog Rescue certainly can expect a long-standing partnership well into the future and are beyond thankful to Petco Love.

ABOUT HOME FOR GOOD DOG RESCUE

We are a 100% foster-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) dog rescue established in 2010 in Summit, New Jersey, with offices in Berkeley Heights. We socialize, care for, and provide rescue dogs with life-saving medical care at our Wellness Center in Aiken, South Carolina, transport them to New Jersey, and nurture them in our network of foster families while they await adoption into loving homes - giving them a second chance at life.

We have rescued over 9,500 dogs from deplorable and dangerous environments, including high-kill shelters, hoarding situations, and abusive conditions, such as in-breeding and puppy mills, neglect and abuse. We give hope and purpose to the dogs we save and the families who have been enriched through fostering and adoption.



(above, l-r) Al Lopez, Co-Founder HFGDR; Amy Whitney, Director of Development; Donna Foti, HFGDR adopter; Rich Errico, Co-Founder HFGDR; Clyde and Finn, HFGDR rescues

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