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FALL SEASON WAS ACTION PACKED FOR BOY SCOUTS

Mountainside Boy Scout Troop 177 had a busy Fall camping out, collecting food for the needy, and seeing a set of brothers advance to Eagle Scout together. In September and October, the troop went on several camping trips in the Watchung Reservation, in the Catskills for a “Fright Night” experience, and the NJ District Jamboree. While at the camps, the boys built a rope bridge, rappelled down the rock wall at night, and practiced target shooting with bows and arrows. Jack and Patrick Huss both advanced to Eagle Scout this year and the troop celebrated with the Huss Family in October. This November, we partnered again with the Cub Scouts to collect food for the needy for Thanksgiving and honored our nation's heroes for Veterans Day.

Even though winter is coming, the troop will have plenty of activities, such as cabin camping, the Boy Scout Klondike Derby, and skiing. If you have an interest in Scouting, please contact the Troop 177 Scoutmaster, Jeff Healy at jeffhealy8@gmail.com.

Follow us on Facebook at MountainsideBoyScouts.com.



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MOUNTAINSIDE HOLIDAY EVENTS

TREE LIGHTING ON DEC 3RD

The Mountainside Christmas Tree will be lit on Saturday, December 3rd at the annual tree lighting ceremony, scheduled for 4:30 p.m. The popular landmark is located at the corner of Route 22 East and New Providence Road next to the Rescue Squad building. The Mayor will officially light the tree, and the Scouts will sing carols. The Mountainside Historical Committee will sell hot chocolate and cookies. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the restoration and maintenance of the Hetfield and Levi Cory Houses. The rain date is Sunday, December 4th.

ICE SKATING PLANNED

Complete this festive day with Family Ice Skating Night, an evening of free ice skating at Westfield Rink. The Recreation Department has reserved the rink exclusively for Mountainside residents and their guests from 5:50- 7:20 p.m. Have fun on the outdoor ice rink with family and friends. Skates can be rented at the rink for a nominal fee. Westfield Rink is located in Gumbert Park - 650 4th Ave, Westfield.

For additional information, please call the Recreation Department at 232-0015.

RESCUE SQUAD IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

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(above) The Mountainside Restoration Committee invites the community to their December events: Village Shop opening on December 2, 3, 16, and 17; Cookie & Hot Cocoa Sale during the Borough Tree lighting on December 3; preorder Holiday Boxwood tabletop arrangement craft kits; and participate in the Family Gingerbread Open House (reservations required) on December 11.

Photo by the Mountainside Restoration Committee

MOUNTAINSIDE RESTORATION COMMITTEE TO HOST HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

As the world returns to normalcy, so are this year's holiday events sponsored by the Mountainside Restoration Committee. This year's events include the following:

The Levi Cory House Village Shop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on December 2, 3, 16, and 17. Stop by for Holiday items and gifts, or just come by to browse.

Cookies & Hot Cocoa Sale on Saturday, December 3 during the Borough Tree Lighting at 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Visit the Rescue Squad building for homemade cookies and hot cocoa beginning at 4:30 p.m. and after the Tree Lighting. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the restoration and maintenance of the Hetfield and Levi Cory Houses.

Back by popular demand! Holiday Boxwood Arrangement craft kits are available for purchase. Purchase a kit and make these festive long-lasting holiday arrangements at home. Kits are \$12 each and contain instructions and all materials needed. To order, go to mountainsidehistory.org/events or call 908-789-9420. Pre-ordered kits can be picked up at the Hetfield House on December 11 from 1 - 4 p.m.

The Hetfield House Gingerbread Open House for families will once again be held on Sunday, December 11. Reservations are required for one of 3 shifts (1-2 p.m., 2-3 p.m., or 3-4 p.m.). Capacity is limited, so reserve early. Families are invited to enjoy music, floral and gingerbread crafts, Mr. & Mrs. Claus, a guessing contest, refreshments, and an immersion in the holiday spirit.

Donations of \$5 per person (\$15 per family) are requested at the door.

Call or email for reservations: 908-789-9420; or hetfieldhouse1@yahoo.com.

The Historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House is located on Constitution Plaza adjacent to the Mountainside Library (off Birch Hill Road). Funds raised will benefit the Mountainside Restoration Committee which 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 historical 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.

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Submitted by Kenny i. (president-M.A.R.)

The Mountainside Active Retirees enjoyed their first trip of their 39th year. Their bus left the Mountainside Community Pool parking lot at 8:30 a.m. on October 25th. First stop was a private tour of the Camden County Historical Society Museum (pictured) where the group viewed displays showing some of Camden

County's history from the American Revolution thru present day. Exhibits included a Women's Exhibit, an African American History Room, Native American (Lenape) Exhibit, Made in Camden Exhibit and many fascinating displays and artifacts. After the educational tour it was time to board the bus for a short ride to dinner and a gastronomic tour of home style German-

American Cuisine, with libations. It was a full day. The next M.A.R. meeting, held at Mountainside Borough's Community Room, is December 13 starting at 10 a.m. It is the 5th annual cookie swap with music provided by Joanna Hansen - Harpist. All meetings are open to Mountainside residents 55+, actively retired or just wishfully so.



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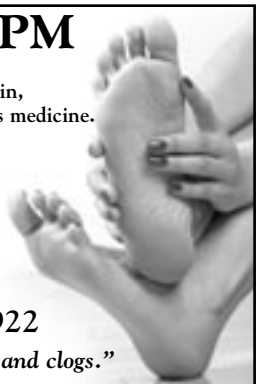
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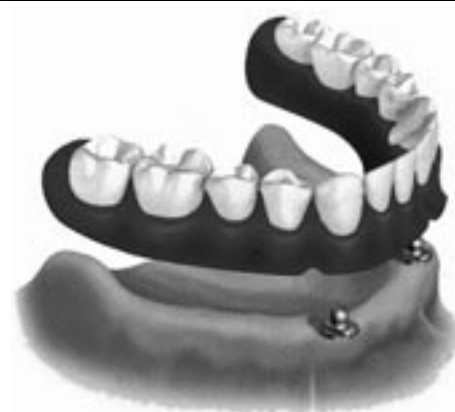


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SHINING STARS "CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR" – DEC. 9

Celebrate the holiday season when the Shining Stars take the stage for their 2022 "Christmas Spectacular" set for Friday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. The show will take place on the main stage at the historic Union County Arts Center in Rahway as this talented cast sings and dances to many of your holiday favorites.

With many cast members from all over Union County and beyond, Shining Stars Network has been producing live programming for the special needs community for ten years.

This year's Christmas Spectacular marks the return of the Shining Stars to one of the most beautiful theaters in New Jersey and will feature 35 special needs cast members and their volunteer buddies from local high schools, who serve as mentors to the cast during rehearsals.

Two previous Shining Stars shows at UCPAC drew more than 1,000 audience members for each performance, and already, the buzz is building in the community.

"We're so excited to ring in the holiday season," noted Shining Stars Network co-founder and President Mike Curci. "Our stars are ready to share their smiles, energy and amazing talents with everyone. This will be a great way to cap off our 10th anniversary celebration."

"We strongly believe in creating an inclusive environment for our cast, and our buddies are an integral part of the Shining Stars experience,"

noted Shining Stars co-founder and director Sally Curci. "We are so excited to bring a new show to the stage and cannot wait to connect with our incredible audience again to celebrate the holiday season."

Shining Stars Network is wrapping up a big year, which included their annual "Evening of Shining Stars" Spring Show, Summer Performing Arts Workshop, and their successful Paper Mill Playhouse debut performing in front of a sold-out audience at the Paper Mill Brook Side Cabaret.

"Shining Stars Network is not only about performing, but more importantly we're about building self-confidence and self-esteem," said Shining Stars co-director Nicole Greene. "Our cast members are not only talented, but inspire us every day, and we are all very excited about taking the stage again to share another magical night with the audience."

Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org. For groups of 10 or more, email shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com.

The night will also feature a Tricky Tray and 50/50 raffle. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

Shining Stars Network is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. that offers opportunities in the performing arts for the special needs community.

Plans for the 2023 season include their 2nd "Reach for the Stars" Gale, set for March 14 at

the elegant Park Chateau Estate & Gardens in East Brunswick.

For more information on Shining Stars Network or to make a donation, please visit shiningstarsnetwork.org.



(above) The Shining Stars will take the stage for their 2022 "Christmas Spectacular" on Friday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.

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UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER

On Thursday, October 27, over 130 people attended the Union County Day of Prayer organized by Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council (UCICC).

It was the 8th annual "Day of Prayer" event, hosted by Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. The event featured a variety of inspirational speakers and performers from Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths. The service included a chant from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness of Central New Jersey and musical offerings from Shimon Smith, Cantorial Soloist/Artist in Residence at Temple Emanu-El, who shared Hebrew songs with attendees.

CAU spearheaded UCICC in 2012 to build bonds in the interfaith community and encourage the respect and welcoming of others regardless of faith, sexual orientation, legal status, or ability. CAU is based in Union County and works statewide to assist people with

developmental disabilities and youth at risk to integrate into the community through support services and support coordination. CAU services include housing, education, employment services, behavioral management, advocacy and more.

Rev. LL DuBreuil, who has been a part of UCICC since the first Day of Prayer, said "I was looking for this kind of community because I believe that when we all come together in celebration...then we're already ready to be together in difficult times. UCICC does not only have these worship experiences, but we sometimes do vigils and marches and we raise money for causes. And it's because we know each other from this that we can more easily work together when times are more difficult." DuBreuil is the Interim Pastor of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains.

Joyce Cargle, a longtime CAU member, said of the event, "We learned inclusion and we learned about community today."



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(above) The Union County Day of Prayer was held on Thursday, October 27, with over 130 people in attendance.



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CRAIG CLARK CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF HEART TRANSPLANT

Craig Clark, 61, is taking time to reflect on the gift of life and the miracle of organ and tissue donation and transplantation as he recently celebrated four years since his life-saving heart transplant. With his health and strength now restored, Craig is living each day to its fullest by enjoying life's precious moments and spending time on his favorite hobbies, including home improvement projects, day trips and travel.

"Each day that I get to travel and spend time



(above) Heart transplant recipient Craig Clark of Scotch Plains recently celebrated the four-year anniversary of his life-saving transplant.

Photo courtesy of NJ Sharing Network

with extended family and friends or special events like our children's weddings or the birth of a grandchild, I remember that it was made possible thanks to my organ donor and the care of Susan Pardi, NP, and the amazing transplant team at NYU Langone who kept me alive through heart failure," said Craig.

Now four years post-transplant, Craig is filled with energy and spends as much time as possible with his grandchild. He is also forever mindful of his organ donor who gave him the gift of life. "The only thing that I know about my donor is that he was 51 years old when he passed," said Craig. "My donor or his family's decision to be a donor has essentially given me a new lease on life."

Craig has also made it a priority to advocate for NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State. By sharing his story with others, Craig hopes to encourage more people to register as organ and tissue donors. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others," said Craig.

At the age of 17, Craig enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He earned bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Art History from Seton Hall University before returning to active military duty as an Artillery Officer. At that time, doctors detected that Craig had a heart murmur, and he was soon diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. Despite his critical health challenges, Craig and

his wife, Anna, raised their three children, Adam, Rachel and Nathan, and he enjoyed a successful career in transportation and supply chain management.

As years passed, Craig's heart disease grew progressively worse. He suffered a stroke and his heart stopped beating twice in a two-week period. Craig had a defibrillator implanted, but he was later diagnosed with congestive heart failure (CHF) in 2017. He was added to the heart transplant waiting list. On August 25, 2018, while admitted at NYU Langone, Craig's prayers were answered when he received "the call" from NYU Langone cardiologist Alex Reyentovich, MD that a heart was available for transplant.

"I remember answering the phone was basically the only thing that I had enough strength to do at the time," said Craig. "The next day, I had my transplant. I recovered quickly in the immediate days and weeks after transplant. I was out of the hospital in just seven days!"

Currently, there are over 100,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant, according to United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. Organ and tissue donor registrations in the Garden State continue to increase thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts and simplified ways to register. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.

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2022



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Participants must be willing to have their address & photos
shared on social media. This year there will be no categories.
There will be 3 first place home winners & 2 business winners. Bring on the
merriment of Mountainside by presenting the beauty of our beloved town!

Entry Deadline: Dec. 19th • Prize: \$100 gift card

Judging will occur after the deadline on a date to be determined.
Winners will be announced via Facebook.
For questions please text Donna at 908.377.5094

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December 18 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

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November 30, December 7 and 14
at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24
Family Service with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Eucharist with Special Music at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.
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Sunday, January 1 - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

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TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR 24TH ANNUAL PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th joyous season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 17 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for two performances at 2 and 7PM. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 18 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ also with performances at 2 and 7PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as, "Highland Cathedral," "Joy to the World", and "Amazing Grace", all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ and brass and more. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

According to producer Robert Currie, "We are absolutely delighted to be bringing our concert back to full force after two devastating years weathering the Covid pandemic. Supporting our GoFundMe campaign will continue to make these concerts possible."

The 2022 production marks the NYC solo debut of soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. In addition to Ms. Lyons, featured performers include James Robinson from the film "Braveheart," New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, champion harpist Rachel Clemente, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA among many more.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which include annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School.

Proceeds also support the annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebration and the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod, and an academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience in cooperation with HomeTowne Television. In addition to winning multiple Telly Awards for broadcast production excellence, the 2020 virtual concert was a finalist for the coveted MG Alba Trad Music Award presented annually in Scotland.

The concert is still accepting Title Sponsors as well as Program Ads. These gifts help offset production expenses and add help fund our scholarships.

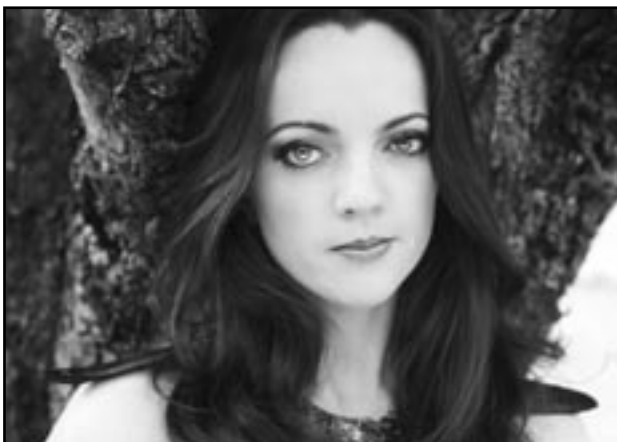
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through ShowTix4U at www.showtix4u.com (be certain you select the event name and date in the search engine). Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.

ABOUT "THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS"

Since making its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. The Westfield Leader described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."



(above) Soprano Sharon Lyons originally from Dublin, Ireland, will make her NYC solo debut at the 2022 Pipes of Christmas concerts in NY and NJ.



(above) Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to the East Coast this December to join the company of the 24th annual "Pipes of Christmas" concerts.



THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS
24TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION

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ADOPT A VET FOR CHRISTMAS

Our flyer goes out this year to all the wonderful supporters who have helped the Lyon's veterans for past 5 years. We had to skip last year due to Covid. Outsiders were not allowed in the building, so we were put on hold.

However, we are excited this year to at least be able to help them in other ways.

This year's Adopt A Vet For Christmas fundraiser will be used for Christmas ... along with a full year of your support.

Your donations will be used not only to buy Christmas presents and "special food and sweets" for the other yearly holidays, but also to help stock the kitchen they use on their unit.

Many of the vets love to make their own meals (that's no surprise!), and have to contribute their own money for many of the items they need to buy.

Your donations are also used for trips to Costco, "Veteran" hats, beautiful enamel dogtags, and other military items we buy for them.

Most of these brave heroes are from the Afghan and Iraq wars. It's been especially hard for them this year, due to all that has transpired lately.

They are so appreciative of the kindness and support from all of you...who have made their stay at Lyons at bit nicer.

As you know, our volunteer list is comprised of Berkeley Heights VFW vets...and me! There are **NO** salaries, **NO** overhead, and **NO** expenses. **EVERY** dollar you donate will be used on our PTSD program at Lyons.

Please share the holidays...and your love...with our nation's heroes. They have given so much to keep us safe.

Thank you for caring about our vets!

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ADOPTION DAY FETES YOUTH LEAVING FOSTER CARE FOR FAMILIES

CASA of Union County

On the morning of Thursday, Nov. 10, children from 18 months to 18 years gathered at the Union County Courthouse surrounded by courthouse staff and judiciary, county commissioners, area organizations and more – all there to celebrate youth reaching the long-awaited end to living in foster care with adoption into a forever family. Family courts see complex issues fraught with loss or discord nearly every day, yet Adoption Day is eagerly anticipated by all, as fresh starts and ample smiles fill the courthouse.

November is National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day, celebrated the Saturday before Thanksgiving, is a national movement to raise awareness of children in foster care awaiting a family. Since its inception in 2000, more than 75,000 children have found permanency on this

day. Still, more than 110,000 youth in the United States need a permanent home and the average wait is four years. More than 23,000 youth nationwide age out of the system each year and must face life on their own.

This year, Union County's celebration came early, but no complaints; it just means children received permanency even sooner. After Judge Daniel Roberts performed the adoption ceremonies, the festivities began: from roving a balloon artist and CASA Volunteer Dina Gharaibeh providing face painting to a musician and more than a dozen superheroes from the Union County Sheriff's Heroes Initiative – the Batmobile even made an appearance – there was nothing but smiles to go around.

Speakers included 17-year-old Maeve Boger-O'Bryan of Cranford and Joseph Coston of Fair

Lawn. Maeve discussed her own open adoption and Joseph shared his story as an adoptive parent of eight youth from the foster system.

CASA of Union County provided family fun baskets with donated board and card games, fleece blankets, jars of popping corn, movie candy and more from David Brearley High School's Bears that Care group, all packed into baskets donated by Cranford Girl Scout Troop 40836. The high school bear mascot also made the rounds, much to the delight of the littlest adoptees and their siblings. In addition, each family received a ShopRite gift card made possible by a Union County Bar Association donation, as well as gifts from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Theta Phi Omega, Phi Eta Omega and Omega Psi Omega chapters.

For details on CASA of Union County and becoming an advocate for a foster youth, contact Chanel at info@casao.unioncounty.org or log on to www.casao.unioncounty.org.



(above) Superheroes from the Union County Sheriff's Heroes Initiative.



(above) The Honorable Daniel Roberts, J.S. C. (Adoption Day Judge), with David Brearley High School Bears That Care



(above) Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Dewanna Graham, 1st VP; Liz Nolley Tillman, President; Joyce Hobbs, Secretary;

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November is Children's Grief Awareness Month and at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss we're spending this month honoring the children who come to us for support by doing all we can to ensure that no child grieves alone. One of the ways that we're working to bring free grief support groups to more children is by bringing them to more communities, most recently to the Newark community.

In October, Imagine began offering free grief support groups every other week on Thursday evenings at the Boys and Girls Club of Newark on Avon Avenue. As these groups continue to grow, our need for volunteer facilitators will grow as well. Imagine's volunteer facilitators are the heart of our support group program. Facilitators first complete a three-day training

to prepare them to create safe spaces and be loving listeners for the children, youth, young adults and adults in Imagine's support groups.

Imagine staff are planning a training for adults interested in facilitating Imagine's Newark support groups. The training will be held at the Teach for America location in Newark December 9-11 from 9 am-5 pm each day. If you're interested in making a difference in the lives of grieving families and would like to participate in this life-changing training, we'd like to hear from you! Imagine's training will prepare you to be present for the children and families that participate at Imagine, help you support those in your family and community who are grieving and also provide an opportunity for you to receive support for losses you've experienced.

Those interested in this training can complete this form forms.office.com/r/RGwq323gHg or contact Imagine's Newark Program Manager, Sonia Nunez at sonia@imagineinj.org.

Please join us in honoring Children's Grief Awareness Month by considering joining Imagine's amazing team of volunteers. We hope to welcome you to the Imagine community.

Imagine offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community.

For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imagineinj.org.

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