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Issue 87 • December 2022

### LIFE-SAVING CPR EFFORTS BY FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNIZED

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#### City of Summit

Mayor Nora Radest and Common Council recognized were involved. members of the Summit Police Department, Summit Fire Department, and Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad with an outstanding example of Summit's first responders working award for exceptional duty for their successful efforts in administering life-saving CPR to a local resident in July 2022. The award was presented by Mayor Nora Radest and Fire Chief Eric Evers at the Tuesday, November 1, Common evening and to see firsthand how well he is doing." Council meeting.

Hetherington. Several shocks were administered to Mr. Zipf. Hetherington throughout the incident. Crews continued CPR Morristown Hospital for further care.

Following a full recovery, Jon Hetherington and his wife Patty Hetherington attended the November 1 Common Fire Department, please visit cityofsummit.org.

Council meeting to personally thank all first responders that

"The successful outcome of this incident is a truly together as a team to save the life of a community member," explains Mayor Radest. "We are thrilled to have Mr. Hetherington join us at the Common Council meeting this

The following individuals responded to the incident: On July 28, 2022, at approximately 1:08 p.m., police, fire Summit Fire Lieutenant Brian Harnois, Firefighter Adam Oare, and EMS responded to a report of a male in cardiac arrest at a and Firefighter Brian Tavis; Summit Police Officer Leonard River Road office location. On arrival, crews began CPR and Franchino and Officer Jeffrey Reinecke; and Summit Volunteer applied an AED to the patient, Millburn resident Jon First Aid Squad members Anna Bowyer, Alex Cohen, and Will

Radest continued, "We are so fortunate to live in a efforts for approximately 40 minutes, after which time Mr. community with dedicated first responders who are highly Hetherington began to breathe on his own and regained a trained. These individuals did not give up on Mr. Hetherington pulse. He was transported by the First Aid Squad to and their determination saved him. I am so proud and thankful for this heroic effort and their exceptional duty."

For more information on the Summit Police Department and



(above, 1-r) Summit Deputy Fire Chief Paul Imbimbo, Fire Chief Eric Evers, Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad member Alex Cohen, Summit Fire Lieutenant Brian Harnois, J on Hetherington, Firefighter Brian Tavis, Firefighter Adam Oare, and Summit Mayor Nora Radest.





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(above, 1-r) Russell Parrish (Small Officer Co-Founder), Karen Hadley (Chamber of Commerce), Jennifer Donnolo (President, Small Officer) and Maisah Conover (Small Officer Co-Founder).

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### **TOYS FOR TOTS HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE**

Summit Policemen's Benevolent The Association #55 (PBA) and Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association #54 (FMBA) are hosting the annual United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots holiday toy drive through Thursday, December 15.

To participate, bring new and unwrapped toys to the donation boxes at the following Summit locations during normal business hours:

- Summit Police Headquarters at City Hall (512 Springfield Avenue)
- Summit Fire Department (396 Broad Street)
- Summit Community Center (100 Morris Avenue)
- Summit High School (125 Kent Place Boulevard)
- The Little Gym (545 Morris Avenue)
- Peapack Gladstone Bank (48 Deforest Avenue)
- Serra Doce (21 Union Place)
- Village Trattoria (103 Summit Avenue)

The PBA and FMBA will drop off donated toys to the Marine Corps Reserve on December 16. The toys collected through this program are distributed to children throughout Union County and the surrounding area. Since 1947, the Marine Toys for Tots program has collected and distributed more than 604 million toys to 272 million deserving children in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands.

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### **CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS IN SUMMIT**

#### **MIRACLE ON ELM STREET EVENT AND HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING - NOV 27**

Community Programs will host the annual Miracle on Elm Street event and holiday tree lighting with Mayor Nora Radest. Miracle on Elm Street will take place from 1PM to 6PM, with ice skating in the Elm Street parking lot. cookies and enjoy bonfires and free hot will take place at approximately 5PM, and the Summit Fire Department will assist with Santa's arrival to the Village Green. Photos with Santa will be offered to attendees. Please contact the Department of Community Programs at 908-277-2932 with any questions.

#### **MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY - DEC 18**

Temple Sinai of Summit will host a menorah from 5PM to 6PM on the Village Green. Members of the public are invited to attend.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY - NOV 26**

Small Business Saturday on Saturday, free to the public. November 26 from 1 to 4PM in downtown SUMMIT FARMERS MARKET - DEC 4, 11, 18 Summit. Many businesses will feature special and Carolers will also begin on Saturday, Residents can enjoy holiday music and a free closed on Sunday, November 27 and Sunday, horse and carriage ride around downtown December 25. Summit. The boarding location will be Lyric Park, on the corner of Beechwood Road and visitsummitdowntown.org/events. Bank Street.

#### **HILLTOP ELF SCAVENGER HUNT - DEC 17**

The HillTop Elf Scavenger Hunt will run from On Sunday, November 27, the Department of November 26 until December 17. The elves will be hidden within downtown Summit businesses or in storefront windows. Scavenger hunt forms can be picked up at any participating business or downloaded from the SDI website. There is no purchase necessary to participate. Participants Attendees will have the opportunity to decorate should indicate where each elf is located at the participating business on the form. Completed beverages. Musical and entertainment acts will forms must be turned in to any participating perform on the Village Green. The tree lighting business by 4PM on Saturday, December 17, to be entered to win a \$500 VISA gift card that can be used at over 100 Summit businesses. 10 runner ups will each win \$100 gift cards. The winning forms will be drawn on Monday, December 19, and winners will be notified by email.

#### **CELEBRATE IN SUMMIT - DEC 17**

Celebrate in Summit will be held on Saturday, lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 18, December 17 from 1 to 4PM, an event to celebrate the holiday season in Summit. There will be live music throughout the downtown area, and Santa Claus will join the horse and carriage Summit Downtown, Inc. (SDI) will host rides beginning at Lyric Park. All activities are

The Summit Farmers Market has been offers and merchandise for the day. Carriages extended to include Sundays December 4, 11, and 18 from 8AM to 12PM, in the Park & Shop November 26, and continue Saturdays Lot on the corner of Deforest Avenue and December 3, 10, and 17 from 1 to 4PM. Woodland Avenue. The Farmers Market will be

For more information on these events please





### **CHRIS ESPOSITO SWORN IN AS SECRETARY OF NJ FMBA**

#### **City of Summit**

Firefighter Chris Esposito from the Summit FMBA Local #54 was sworn in as the New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association's (NJ FMBA) newest State Secretary at the organization's monthly meeting held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022.



(above, l-r) Pictured during the swearing-in *are Summit FMBA Local #54 Firefighter* Christopher J. Esposito, NJ FMBA President Ed Donnelly, and Christopher's mother, Nancy Esposito-Renzulli. Photo by John Rickershauser from the Morristown Fire Department, FMBA Local #43

Courtesy photo



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Esposito was elected to the position in September 2022 at the NJ FMBA convention by delegates from each of the FMBA Locals in New Jersey. Esposito served as Secretary of the Summit FMBA Local #54 from 2013 until 2021 when he was elected to serve as Executive Delegate, a position he currently holds.

"I am excited to serve in this new capacity and document the next chapter of FMBA history for its members," explains Firefighter Chris Esposito. He received an undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University as well as a Master's in Modern History.

Part of the NJ FMBA Executive Board, the State Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at meetings and conventions and maintaining their database of 5,000 firefighters, fire officers, EMTs, and dispatchers in New Jersey.

Esposito joins two other City of Summit employees in leadership roles in their respective State unions. Summit Firefighter Tim Duetsch has served as Central District Vice President of the NJ FMBA since 2013 and was the former President of the Summit FMBA Local #54. He assists local associations in his district with contract negotiations and labor/management relations. Summit Police Detective Michael Freeman serves as the Vice President of Labor Relations of the New Jersey Police Benevolent Association. He assists local associations with collective negotiation agreements, grievance arbitration, and representation to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission.

For more information on the Summit Fire Department and FMBA Local #54, visit cityofsummit.org/fire.



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### **DECEMBER CONCERTS AT THE SUMMIT LIBRARY**

This December, the Summit Free Public Library will host both a family-friendly holiday concert with Yosi and a Slavic Folk and Classical music concert with Dr. David Podles.

"With upbeat punk/rock-infused songs from his 5 award-winning albums, as heard on Sirius/XM and other children's programming, Yosi gets the kids on their feet dancing, laughing and singing," says Yosi's bio at yosimusic.com. "Yosi has created various interactive and educational themed shows that bring joy to thousands of young children and their adults at schools, libraries, and concert stages."

"Dr. David Podles of Riga, Latvia, is laureate of 3 prestigious international competitions and received PhD in music from conservatory in Riga," reads Dr. Podles' online bio at http://www.metroymcas.org/. "He performed in symphony, chamber, opera and ballet theater orchestras both solo, in orchestra and on tour across Russia, including The Bolshoi and Kirov, throughout Europe and the U.S."

These free concerts are held in the Rotunda of the Library. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis. All are welcome.

#### WINTER CONCERT WITH YOSI

Saturday, December 3, 2022, 2 – 3 p.m. A family friendly concert featuring Christmas, Hanukkah, and winter songs. Yosi will lead a lively rendition of 'My Little Dreidel', the hilarious 'She Just Doesn't Get It' (where one frustrated brother can't seem to teach his young sister anything about Hanukkah), as well as popular Christmas favorites like 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' and 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer'. Be sure to watch out for "The Grinch"! Spread joy and merriment with Yosi's festive Christmas show! It's an interactive and humorous concert for the whole family.

#### DR. DAVID PODLES: JOURNEY THROUGH THE SLAVIC COUNTRIES IN MUSIC

Sunday, December 11, 2022, 2 – 3 p.m. Acclaimed international concert violinist Dr. David Podles brings a rich, interwoven culture through a musical travel of the Slavic countries. He will perform Folk and Classical music from countries such as Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Moldova, Russia, Slovakia, Macedonia and more. This is a thrilling musical tour showcasing specific music pieces as well as some classical pieces that represent this intriguing culture.

These programs are made possible, in part, by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and also by the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library.





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### **COLLEEN HAS A RESTORED FAMILY HEIRLOOM – HER OWL**

memories of a particular owl artwork that hung in her home as a child. With age, the frame and support backing had become weak and frail. Colleen couldn't display it any longer. She had a gut-wrenching decision to make about the fate of the owl artwork. But like fashion, home décor



(above) Colleen McKenna of Summit with her family heirloom owl frame.

may have considered outdated a few years ago have made their way back into the spotlight. Well, that was the case with Colleen's owl. It was back in vogue. So, she decided to have it repaired and brought it to SAGE Restoration Workshop.

The workshop volunteers were able to reconstruct the original frame and put a new backing on it. The owl is now sturdy again. Renewed with vigor for many more years of appreciation.

"Thank you to the team at the SAGE workshop," said Colleen. She added, "It was a pleasure to work with them and I am happy to support our seniors." Today the owl, representing wisdom and knowledge, hangs again in her home.

#### ABOUT RESTORATION WORKSHOP

Since 1961, the SAGE Eldercare Workshop has offered the public fine-quality furniture repair. The volunteers will consider repairing any piece of furniture that can be carried into the workshop. The Workshop has a reputation throughout Union County and beyond for its fine reweaving of caned and rushed chairs. Our artisans are all highly trained volunteers. Proceeds from the Workshop benefit SAGE programming. Prices are reasonable and depend upon the condition of the chair or furniture item and the materials required in the restoration process.

The Workshop started out over fifty years ago as a place for older men who no longer had

Colleen McKenna of Summit has fond trends tend to go in and out of style. Things we access to a home workshop. Dozens of women have worked in the historically male enclave. Most volunteers are former professionals including investment bankers, college professors, physicians, and scientists. Over the years, they have taught each other caning, rushing and a myriad of other techniques needed to fix the aging furniture brought to them for restoration.

> The Workshop is in the basement of the SAGE building at 290 Broad Street, Summit and is easily accessible. Shop hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

> For more information about the service or to schedule an appointment to bring in furniture, call 908-598-5531.

#### **ABOUT SAGE ELDERCARE**

SAGE Eldercare is one of only a few providers in the nation - and the only one in New Jersey to provide a full range of eldercare services under one roof. For 68 years, SAGE's mission has been to help older adults remain living in their own homes. Whether it is assisting with a Home Health Aide, helping with food insecurity, or offering a stimulating adult day medical program, SAGE can help. Their team provides referrals, caregiver support groups and free and confidential Medicare counseling. And as the unique challenges of older adults and caregivers evolve, educational programming is available every step of the way to keep you informed of best practices.

Learn more at www.sageeldercare.org. Follow us at @SAGEeldercare.



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### **'TIS THE SEASON! JUNIOR LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**

The Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop is excited to announce its annual Holiday Boutique. The well-established event features a wide selection of new toys, new and gently used holiday clothing for everyone in the family, jewelry, accessories, and giftware, as well as holiday decor to make your homes festive! The Holiday Boutique is held in our shop at 37 Deforest Avenue, Summit, NJ, and began on Saturday, November 26 (small business Saturday). The following week our hours will return to Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9 a.m - 1 pm.; and Wednesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

"This event is a fun and exciting way to begin the holiday season! Be sure to mark your calendars and stop in to see all the treasures we have saved for this highly anticipated event," says Thrift Shop Manager Marie Avagliano.

As with all Shop sales, proceeds from the Holiday Boutique will directly fund the League's programming, community grants, and projects.

"Seeing the faces of so many excited customers at the Holiday Boutique really warms the heart! You can see the direct impact our Shop

The Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop is cited to announce its annual Holiday butique. The well-established event features a ide selection of new toys, new and gently used biday clothing for everyone in the family, welry, accessories, and giftware, as well as

The Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop in Summit was established in 1934 and offers new and gently used clothing and shoes for men, women, and children, toys, decorative items for the home, housewares, and furniture that are deeply discounted. It is the primary fundraiser for the Junior League of Summit and has provided the resources for the League's many grants, projects, programs, and scholarships over the years. Since its inception, the Shop has raised over \$3,000,000 to benefit Summit and surrounding communities.

The Junior League of Summit, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. For more information about the Junior League of Summit, please visit the website at jlsummit.org or contact the office at 908-273-7349



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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.

#### The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th **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 hidefinition 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.

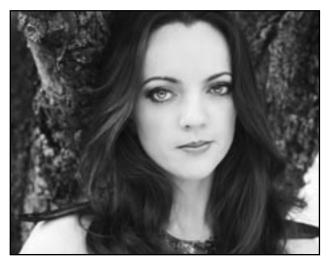
#### **TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW**

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.



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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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### 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 family received a ShopRite gift card made 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 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@casaofunioncounty.org or log on to www.casaofunioncounty.org.



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



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











### **GRACE BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

volunteers came together on October 1st, to support An Evening with GRACE to Benefit Our Neighbors In Need, honoring some of Summit's most giving community members and bringing support of more than \$100,000 to continue the mission of GRACE in Summit, NJ.

New friends and friends from the start were invited to #fallforgrace, as they enjoyed a signature cocktail, the "Gold & Delicious" designed by Bobby Frascella, at Summit House, fresh pastries from award-winning pastry Chef Joe Murphy from Bakehouse, and delicious food featuring fresh local flavors. Shaking up the dance floor, live music was provided by Roses In Stereo. While an energetic paddle raise led by Summit's own David Guida reached beyond expectations and successfully helped GRACE raise the funds to continue programming and secure support that guarantees: our neighbors have winter coats for the cold weather season, breakfast in our schools for all students who find themselves in need of an extra hand, diapers, wipes and formula for our littlest neighbors, Thanksgiving pies for families to gather together and find joy during the holidays, and groceries for our 12 Chestnut seniors. Two party attendees raised their paddle to support a full week of distribution sponsorship, and GRACE thanks them for raising to the occasion, as together we #fallforgrace. You too can support GRACE by going to gracegivingreceiving.org/donate and may consider the \$6,000 it takes to sponsor a week of distribution.

Founder of GRACE, Amanda Parrish Block, shared that "GRACE folds each corner of the community together to strengthen the whole. Every week we come together to support our neighbors. We are so grateful for our most generous neighbors who gathered on this special night. Their support allows GRACE to continue to grow."

GRACE thanks the many volunteers, sponsors, supporters and neighbors who donated and joined An Evening with GRACE. Together our community gathered, celebrated and honored those who have grown GRACE into a sustainable community resource. Top level event sponsors include Gala level sponsor MICRO, and Golden Delicious level sponsors Delia Hamlet & Family, Richard & Kayla Pechter, and CSL Segirus. You can enjoy a peek at all the event sponsors and advertisers in the digital event journal.

"It was a beautiful evening celebrating all the good that GRACE is doing in our community. Thank you to our dedicated event committee who made this a night to remember. We are so grateful for our supporters; everyone that sponsored,



More than 150 community members and purchased tickets, donated and raised a paddle. ABOUT GRACE We are incredibly lucky to live in such a giving community," shared event chairperson Christine Semcer.

> It is Summit's most giving neighbors who have supported GRACE since its inception in 2016. An Evening with GRACE raised a toast in honor of: the City of Summit Department of Community Programs, Christ Churches own Rev. Dr. Charles T. Rush, the Junior League of Summit, Summit Downtown Inc., and Camile Conde who shared a touching story of how GRACE supports everyone. GRACE wouldn't be here without their support and continued partnerships.

> Proceeds from An Evening with GRACE will continue to support the mission and demand of more than 500 families who come to GRACE every week for the food and essentials they need to be happy, healthy and secure. GRACE distributes more than 16,000 pounds of food every week, and after the generous in-kind donations received from local businesses, support organizations and friends, GRACE must spend an additional \$6,000 to provide the necessary supplies to sustain current demand. We have never closed and never missed a week for any reason, including snow, power outages, nor'easters or COVID.

Since 2016 GRACE has been Giving & Receiving Assistance for our Community's Essentials. As a volunteer run 501(c)3 non-profit organization, GRACE meets community needs with community resources to enable the good health and success of our vulnerable and underserved neighbors by distributing culturally relevant fresh food and supplies, including milk, bread, eggs and produce, toilet paper, diapers and wipes, and period products every Thursday evening in Summit, NJ, while providing access and referrals to community support services. GRACE now serves more than 500 local families every week. According to weekly distribution demand at GRACE, the number of neighbors facing food and financial insecurity in our area has grown 835% since GRACE's inception in 2016. With inflation we face greater demand from people who are working poor, Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. Our neighbors are facing more needs to sustain health, happiness and security. Even while our egg prices have risen 300% and milk prices have increased 15% since March 2020, we continue to provide. We meet community demand with community resources. For more information, visit gracegivingreceiving.org, or email Amanda Parrish Block at: info@gracegivingreceiving.org.



(above) On October 1, more than 150 community members and volunteers came together to support An Evening with GRACE to Benefit Our Neighbors In Need.



### SUMMIT EMS RESPONSES – SEPT. AND OCT. 2022

After answering 201 calls in August, Summit's EMS Volunteers responded to 204 emergency calls during September and 182 in October. Responses for the two-month period included 258 medical emergencies; 33 falls; 24 motor vehicle accidents, including five on a highway and two into a building; 20 traumatic injuries; 17 cases of overdose or poisoning; eight responses to a medical alarm; one case of Carbon Monoxide (CO) exposure; four pedestrians struck by a vehicle and one cyclist struck by a vehicle. Squad Volunteers also provided 12 "lift assists" to patients who did not require transport to a hospital.

In September, Squad volunteers successfully revived a patient who had been in cardiac arrest; their 3rd such save this year.

Twenty-eight emergency calls were answered by an off-duty "back-up crew" of volunteers responding from home or work when the on-duty crew is busy. There were also 34 emergency responses by Summit volunteers to provide mutual aid assistance to four neighboring towns. Thirty-seven patients transported to a hospital by Squad members also received advanced life support care from hospital-based paramedics who accompanied the Squad's ambulance.

Squad members also provided EMS stand-by coverage at two fire scenes, three September 11 events, and four varsity football games.

The Squad answers calls for help 24 hours a day and at a variety of locations. September and October responses included 148 to a patient's home or apartment; 40 for accidents or medical emergencies on roads or highways; five in a public park; one on an athletic field; 33 at a local business; and 11 to a health care provider's office. There were also 13 medical incidents on sidewalks; 8 in parking lots; 15 at Summit's train station; 30 at a local behavioral health facility; 4 on the grounds of Overlook Medical Center; 13 to an assisted living facility; 2 on a playground; 2 on athletic fields; and 5 at a school.

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad responds to emergency calls 24/7 and is entirely funded through private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms, and equipment is provided. For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their website at: summittems.org.



#### FIRST AID SQUAD COVERS THREE CALLS IN ONE HOUR

Monday, November 14 was a reasonably busy day for Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad with four calls before noon. But it exploded with four additional calls coming between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. In yet another example of SEMS members' commitment to getting its ambulances on the road, members responded to three of the four calls and had all three ambulances out simultaneously. All three ambulances transported patients, and two of them were taken to Morristown: one went to the pediatric wing, and the other was a trauma activation taken directly into trauma bay 3.

When people call 911, they are hoping for a quick and efficient response. Yet again, SEMS did not disappoint!

Duty crew members Dave Bernstein and Mel Harari were joined by senior members John Staunton, Paul Raynolds, Laura Benevento, and Kerry Whitcher. In addition, junior members Reyna Shivdasani and Carolina Ferronato joined and were incredibly poised and helpful in what can best be described as a chaotic scramble!

Many thanks to Summit Fire Department and Summit Police Department for providing valuable assistance to SEMS crews and patients! And a special thank you to Chatham First Aid Squad for providing mutual aid into Summit and responding to the call we were unable to cover.



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