

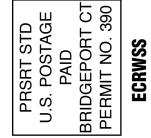
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YOUR

LONG HILL 10U SPRING TRAVEL CHAMPIONS

Submitted by Jackie Hurley

The Long Hill 10U Spring Travel team finished their season on Father's Day, June 16, 2024, by playing their opponent Parsippany in the championship game. Long Hill was down 1-0 in the top of the 6th. The boys loaded the bases. Tyler Janis was calm at the plate with two outs against him and drew a walk which tied the game. Then Jackson Gallina cleared the bases by hitting a 3 run double to secure the lead. Desmond Finken finished his complete game with an impressive 12 strikeouts.





(above) Players with their fathers and grandfathers.

(left, l-r) Back row: Coaches Gary Veracco, Greg Hurley, and Pete D'Andrea. Players: Jackson Gallina, Ari Libeskind. Mason Birckhead, Joseph Weuste, Lucas Lombardo, Rvan D'Andrea. James Veracco, Dean Hurley, Tyler Janis, Desmond FInken, Jake Varvar (not pictured: Sam Firer).



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23RD ANNUAL DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT

Drive for Autism Foundation

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXIII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on Monday September 16, 2024.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$855,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children (Paramus, NJ), Young Life (greater Summit area), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 - formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ),and Seton Foundation/Mother Francheska Elementary visit birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXIII, School (Staten Island, NY).

Grant recipients use money to fund Health and Fitness Programs, Social Skills Programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes

are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to: birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXIII **ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:**

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism. **DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2024**

The Drive for Autism XXIII is scheduled for

Monday Sept 16, 2024, at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please

call 908-451-8033

or email driveforautism@comcast.net.



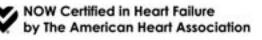
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URGENT NEED FOR ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

The afternoon that five-year-old Bella's mom failed to pick her up from kindergarten, she and her little brother Ethan, age two, would see their lives change. As Bella waited at school, calls were made to locate mom – who suffers from schizophrenia. When it was learned mom had been hospitalized, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency became involved and, upon arriving at the family home, it was discovered there was no food, furniture, or other necessary items. It was then that life in foster care for Bella and Ethan began.

Bella and Ethan are among more than 500 children who need to be removed from their homes in Passaic and Union counties each year due to abuse and/or neglect. Separated from all they've ever known, the road ahead is long, and they need a caring, consistent adult in their corner to protect their best interests. That's where Child Focus comes in. Specifically, its Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and, right now, there is an urgent need for volunteers – including those bilingual in both English and Spanish – to step up and train as child advocates for waiting children.

The next advocate training series will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays September 12 through October 22 in Information sessions are scheduled for August

Clark. Those interested must first attend any one of the following information sessions: Wednesday, August 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue, Westfield; Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rahway Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, Rahway; and Wednesday, August 28 at noon at the Child Focus office, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor, Elizabeth. Register now at casapassaicunion.org/info-session.

Said Executive Director Erica Fischer-Kaslander, "We are committed to recruiting, screening, and training advocates for every child in both Passaic and Union counties who needs one. It is difficult to overstate the difference a CASA volunteer can make in the life of a child removed from home through no fault of their own, due to abuse or neglect." She added, "Children with volunteer advocates are more likely to have needed services ordered on their behalf, spend less time in the foster care system, and experience significantly better outcomes than those who go without. Becoming a CASA volunteer requires a significant time commitment and training, but volunteers often find the work as life-changing for themselves as it is for the children they help."

training on the ins and outs of advocating for children in foster care and are fully supported CASA staff members.No by special background in child welfare or law is necessary; successful CASA volunteers are dedicated community members with varied life experiences. CASA volunteers visit the children, make unbiased observations, interview others in the child's life, and make recommendations to the judge. They often are the only consistent adult in the life of a child involved in the child welfare system, as caseworkers, professionals, and placements can be ever-changing. A CASA volunteer provides continuity during a time of chaos and unknowns.

ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus champions the needs and wellbeing of infants, children and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information, log on to childfocusnj.org.

CASA volunteers receive professional log on to childfocusnj.org.



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NEW VETERAN CENTER COMMUNITY ACCESS POINT

County of Morris

Morris County's new federal Veteran Center Community Access Point (CAP) opened on May 2, 2024, at the Morris County Veteran Services Office (VSO) located at 540 West Morris Avenue in Morris Township.

Services will be provided – by appointment only -- by two Veteran Affairs (VA) counselors from the federal Bloomfield Vet Center, who will be available every Thursday. To make an appointment, veterans should call the Bloomfield Vet Center at 973-748-0980, NOT the Morris County VSO.

"Morris County can host this new Veteran Affairs service point because we've recently doubled the space for our veteran services," said Morris County Commissioner John Krickus, a lifelong county resident and U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

A CAP is a satellite location of the VA, typically established in donated spaces in conjunction with community organizations to provide readjustment counseling services to eligible veterans, service members and their families. The Morris County Board of County Commissioners agreed to provide the two rooms at the Morris County Veteran Services Office to support the federal VA satellite services in the hopes the VA will locate a full-service VA Center in Northwest New Jersey.

Vet Centers provide Veterans with high-quality counseling, community engagement, and referral services in nearby and comfortable environments.

Over the past two years, Morris County has

expanded its VSO facility and will again increase staffing, adding a fourth veterans service officer and an intern this year. In 2022, Morris County allocated \$350,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to veteran services, and last year contributed an additional \$300,000 to address the growing demand for mental health, family counseling and other veteran services.

VA Centers are community-based counseling centers that offer a wide range of social and psychological services, including no-cost professional counseling for eligible veterans, service members and their families. New Jersey currently has five locations: Bloomfield, Egg Harbor Township, Ewing Township, Lakewood Township and Secaucus.



(above, l-r) A local veteran speaks with VA Undersecretary Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Commissioner John Krickus and U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill.

Courtesy photo



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SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS

Those interested in attending should call the Senior Center of the Chathams Mondays-Fridays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to register: 973-635-4565.

Piano Recital by a High School Student

Monday, August 5, 1:00 PM Trivia Game Wednesday, August 7, 1:00 PM

Ice Cream Social Thursday, August 8, 11:00 AM. Seating is limited.

Guitar Performance by Ken Knowlton Thursday, August 8, 12:00 PM **Home Sharing Presentation** Monday, August 12, 11:00 AM **Crafters Corner**

Thursday, August 15, 10:30 AM Make a refreshing cucumber scrub as a gift or a treat for yourself. Seating is limited.

> Pizza Party Friday, August 16, 12:00 PM seating is limited.

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