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FIVE RESIDENTS SWORN IN TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN

Union County Superior Court Judge Gavin I. Handwerker presided over the swearing-in of 12 volunteers who trained with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties to advocate for vulnerable children in foster care on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025. Among them are Westfield's Sharon Dorry, Mary Louise Kandigian, Tara McGroddy, Cecilia Nicholas, and Dalida Nigro.

Classmates include Michelle Conway of Cranford, Patricia Joffe of Mountainside, Byron Ruales-Correa of Orange, and Juliette Abadir and James Pritchett of Scotch Plains. Now equipped to champion the best interests of child victims of abuse and neglect, the volunteers join a team of hundreds of devoted advocates with CASA of Passaic and Union Counties who provide life-changing advocacy and support services to each of the more than 350 children across both counties living in foster care through no fault of their own.

Each were asked about their goals as a CASA volunteer, and training experience. Said Nicholas, "I hope to contribute to making things better for the children," then offered advice for those considering the CASA volunteer role but unsure: "Just do it!" Dorry agreed, adding her need "to give back, to impact and advocate for kids at a time in their lives when they need it most. I've heard about too many kids who fall through the cracks." Kandigian said she was inspired to become a CASA volunteer to "make the life of a child or children more stable and pleasant by being a caring, adult presence." Said Nigro, being an advocate "is going to be so rewarding that [the classes are] worth the effort. I hope to help the child feel



someone is truly looking out for them." McGroddy noted she's excited to be assigned a case, as training was "interesting and informative with real-life stories that gave me perspective."

"These 12 community members have made an invaluable commitment to ensure every child's voice is heard and valued. We are proud to welcome them as Court Appointed Special Advocates," said Erica Fischer-Kaslander, Executive Director of Child Focus, the nonprofit organization that oversees the CASA program. "Each volunteer brings unique perspectives and strengths that will impact the lives of those who need it most. I encourage anyone interested in

supporting vulnerable children to attend an information session to learn how they, too, can make a difference as a child advocate."

No prior knowledge of child welfare is required to become a CASA volunteer; comprehensive training equips volunteers with the skills necessary to advocate effectively. Volunteer advocates visit their assigned child at least once monthly and communicate with caregivers, educators, caseworkers, and others in the child's life to make informed recommendations to the judge.

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties is a program of Child Focus, which prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children, and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.

For details about the CASA program, call 973-832-4002, e-mail info@casapassaicunion.org, or visit www.casapassaicunion.org.



(above, l-r) Sharon Dorry, Mary Louise Kandigian, Tara McGroddy, Cecilia Nicholas, Dalida Nigro

Courtesy photos

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VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD VISITS ROTARIANS

The Rotary Club of Westfield heard about the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad at their regular meeting on February 4, 2025. The Squad is one of only two squads in Union County which are all volunteer. They do not receive any tax payer funds, but are supported entirely by tax

deductible donations from the townspeople. They provide their services for free 24/7/365 to the residents of Westfield. They provide emergency medical services with trained professionals, transport, and CPR training. For more information, visit westfielddems.org.



(above, l-r) Westfield Rescue Squad President Callie Campbell and Rotarian Barbara Frantz.

Courtesy photo



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ARTS DEPT RECOGNIZED FOR ARTS ADVOCACY

Westfield Public Schools

The Westfield Public School District's Visual and Performing Arts Department is a recipient of the 2025 Music for All Advocacy in Action Awards, which highlight educators and programs that have created an exceptional event or idea in their field and community.

In the entry submitted by VPA Supervisor Shawna Longo, the district was recognized in the non-fund-raising community involvement category for "Arts in our Schools Month."

"Our combined Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM) and Youth Art Month (YAM) celebrations were a resounding success, showcasing the incredible talent of Westfield's young artists and musicians and underscoring the vital role of arts education in our schools," says Longo. "Through these efforts, we aimed not only to highlight student talent but also to amplify the benefits of a comprehensive arts education at the local, state, and national levels. Additionally, we sought to deepen community engagement, foster school spirit, promote key events, celebrate student achievements, and strengthen community support."

Music for All is a non-profit, Indianapolis-based advocate for music and arts education.

"Music programs are an integral part of their school and local communities. Visibility and engagement within a community are mutually beneficial, developing and strengthening critical

relationships while showcasing student achievement," the organization writes in its recognition of the Westfield program. "Community involvement leads to an increased understanding of the benefits of music education and encourages support for continued growth and excellence."

The Advocacy in Action awards are presented each year in seven categories: Community Involvement, Decision-Maker Engagement, Elementary Excellence, Innovative Fundraising, Marketing and Promotion, Parent/Booster Support, and Student Recruitment, Engagement, and Retention.

The recipients will be featured on Music for All's Advocacy in Action Archive, where their ideas will be available for music educators across the country to learn from and emulate.



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MUSIC HONORS AT THE STATE AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Westfield Public Schools

Talented student musicians in the Westfield Public Schools were selected to perform in intermediate and high school band and orchestra ensembles at the state and regional levels.

Westfield High School 10th grader Nathan DeBole performed with the New Jersey All-State Symphonic Band, selected from among several hundred auditionees to participate. DeBole joined this prestigious ensemble in performing on February 22 at the Atlantic City Convention Center and on February 23 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

Student musicians in grades 6-8 at Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools were selected for the intermediate region band and orchestra for central New Jersey, competing against more than 400 students for the coveted spots. The following students will perform in these highly competitive ensembles in March.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA:

James Fu, 8th Grade, Violin;
Zain Nasser, 7th Grade, Viola;
Emma Wang, 7th Grade, Violin;
Emmaline Yong, 6th Grade, Violin

INTERMEDIATE BAND:

Logan Chen, 7th Grade, Alto Saxophone;
Arav Sheth, 8th Grade, Clarinet

INTERMEDIATE WIND ENSEMBLE:

Gabriel Garfield, 8th Grade, Trumpet;
Annabelle Tao, 8th Grade, French Horn

INTERMEDIATE SYMPHONIC BAND:

Filippos Komvokis, 6th Grade, Trumpet



(above, l-r) Student musicians in grades 6-8 at Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools were selected for the intermediate region band and orchestra for central New Jersey.

Pictured here, from Edison, are: Emmaline Yong, Emma Wang, Zain Nasser, James Fu, Logan Chen, and Arav Sheth.

Photos by Westfield Public Schools



(above) Westfield High School 10th grader Nathan DeBole performed with the New Jersey All-State Symphonic Band in February, selected from among several hundred auditionees to participate.

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MILLER CORY HOUSE MUSEUM MARCH EVENTS

On Sunday, March 9th, 2-4 p.m. The Farmers' Year: The Four Seasons of a New Jersey Farm

Spring was when the circle of seasons began for colonial families like the Millers and the Corys. Come find out what the jobs and expectations of each season were on a colonial New Jersey farm. Docents will also be cooking over the open-hearth. Families can also enjoy a variety of history-themed activities in our new Maker Space. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and children 13 and older, \$4 for children ages 3 to 12 and free under age 3. No reservations necessary.

On Sunday March 23rd, from 2-4 p.m., the grounds of the Miller Cory House Museum will be open for viewing, docents will be offering tours of the fully furnished c1740 farmhouse, and our cooks will be busy over the open hearth. Our Maker Space will be available with self-guided activities for kids and families. Admission is \$5

ages 13 and older; \$4 ages 3-12 and free age 2 and younger. No reservations are necessary.

Since 1968, the 501(c)(3) non-profit Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society has worked to preserve, interpret and encourage interest in history, Westfield, and its residents through educational efforts and community outreach programs.

For more information on the Miller Cory House Museum/Westfield Historical Society and their events, millercoryhouse.com and westfieldhistoricalsociety.org.



(above) The grounds will be open for viewing, docents will be offering tours and our cooks will be busy cooking over the open hearth.

Courtesy photo



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STUDENT RECIPIENTS OF MLK AWARD

Westfield Public Schools

Twenty elementary and intermediate school students in the Westfield Public Schools received recognition for their submissions in an annual essay, poetry, and art contest sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield.

The students - whose creative works addressed the organization's 2025 theme of "Building Bridges to the Beloved Community" - were welcomed at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assoc's Annual Interfaith Service on January 20 at Saint Helen Roman Catholic Church.



Photo by Mary McCabe

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STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS: INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS

ESSAYS: 1st Place: Allison Reilly, 6th Grade, Edison;
2nd Place: Ethan Chang, 7th Grade, Edison;
3rd Place: Ella Wint, 7th Grade, Edison;
Honorable Mention: Piper Yuen, 7th Grade, Edison

POETRY:
1st Place: Norah Thokkadam, 6th Grade, Roosevelt;
2nd Place: Kiran duPlessis, 8th Grade, Edison;
3rd Place: Emma Materdomini,

6th Grade, Roosevelt

ART:
1st Place: Emma Dushak, 6th Grade, Edison;
2nd Place: Ryka Shenoy, 6th Grade, Edison;
3rd Place: Vera Grez, 8th Grade, Roosevelt Elementary Schools

ESSAYS:
1st Place: Nia Mehendiratta, 4th Grade, Tamaques;
2nd Place: Arjun Verma, 5th Grade, Jefferson;
3rd Place: Taylor Walker, 4th Grade, Franklin;
Honorable Mention: Isla Dudley, 1st Grade, Wilson

POETRY:
1st Place: Nolan Yuxan Wang,

5th Grade, McKinley;
2nd Place: Shivani Swamy, 5th Grade, Jefferson;
3rd Place: Ryan Lele, 4th Grade, Jefferson

ART:
1st Place: Talia Purdo, 3rd Grade, Franklin;
2nd Place: Eloise Macal tao, 5th Grade, McKinley;
3rd Place: Asmira Sunkara, 5th Grade, Franklin
Tamaques first graders received special mention by the MLK Association for their larger banner representing the theme.

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OVER 200 'HUG IN A MUG' DISTRIBUTED

Westfield Girl Scouts

Senior and Ambassador Scouts from Service Unit #52 successfully hosted their annual Westfield Girl Scouts Hug in a Mug campaign. With a heartwarming goal of reaching local seniors and isolated neighbors, these high school students collected mugs and filled them with coffee, hot chocolate, breakfast items, and sweets. Over 200 mugs were distributed to area residents through partnerships with organizations such as St. Anne's Church, Holy Trinity Church, First United Methodist Church, and Lifelong Westfield.

This project was undertaken in honor of the late William Kessinger. A paratrooper during the Korean War, he was known as a grandfather figure to many in the Westfield/Scotch Plains area. Nicknamed "Candyman," he was known to give out sweets to local children. Each mug is thoughtfully assembled with several of his favorite treats.

Now in its fifth year, the Hug in a Mug campaign continues through the generosity of the Westfield community. Westfield Girl Scouts extends heartfelt thanks to the many troops, donors, and partnering organizations whose support makes this effort possible.



Courtesy photo

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APRIL 6 AT 3 PM: MICHAEL PATRICK'S RING OF FIRE BAND: A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Prepare to be captivated by Michael Patrick's heartfelt tribute to the legendary Johnny Cash. Over a decade ago, Michael Patrick fell in love with Johnny Cash's music—the simplicity, sincerity, and deep, expressive voice. Enjoy classics like "Ring of Fire," "Walk the Line," and "Folsom Prison Blues." Jenni Bee performs the songs of June Carter Cash, including "Jackson" and "Wildwood Flower." The Ring of Fire Band has shared the stage with Cash Family members and legends like Randy Travis and Clint Black. With annual tours in the South and sold-out shows from NYC to Boston, the Ring of Fire Band keeps Johnny Cash's legacy burning bright.

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musicians bring their passion, energy, and unique sound to every performance. Experience the vibrant music scene of New Jersey and support your local artists. Whether you're a fan of rock, pop, doo-wop, or tribute bands, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Join us for an unforgettable musical journey and be part of the excitement!

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ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The College Woman's Club of Westfield is holding its annual Spring Luncheon on Friday, March 21, 2025. The luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. Our guest Speaker is Christopher Battiloro the Chief of Police of Westfield. The cost per person is \$65, which includes tickets to win tricky tray baskets. There will be silent auction items too.

All proceeds go to support the 2025 Scholarship Fund. The scholarships promote and support young woman scholars to achieve their educational goals. Don't miss this opportunity to have a good time while making a meaningful impact! Please register by March 14, at: cwclubwestfield.org/events. We hope to see you there!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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GOLDEN PASS PROGRAM FOR SENIORS 65+

The Westfield Public School District is excited to announce that the Golden Pass Program has been expanded to include intermediate school performances. The Golden Pass Program, launched more than a decade ago, provides Westfield residents ages 65 and older free entrance to many of the district's exciting sporting events and wonderful performances at Westfield High School. Now passholders are invited to attend performances by the talented students at Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools as well.

The Spring schedule for all secondary school concerts and musicals is provided below. The schedule also is posted on the district website.

Advance ticket purchases are required for spring musicals. Concerts are free to all but still require a ticket. For assistance in obtaining a ticket, please contact the Coordinator of School and Community Relations, Mary Ann McGann, at (908) 789-4463 or mmcgann@westfieldnj12.org.

The pass also is accepted at Westfield High School athletic events with the exception of County and State games and at off campus venues, where the entrance gates are not controlled by Westfield. The complete Blue Devils sports schedule can be found at

www.unioncountyconference.nj.org. Golden Pass holders may call the Athletic Office at 908-789-4512 with any questions.

Westfield residents 65 years and older can obtain the Golden Pass, about the size of a credit card, in the Business Office of the Westfield Board of Education, located in Room 101 on the first floor of 302 Elm Street from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Elevator access is available at the Walnut Street parking lot entrance.

For more information on the program, please contact Mrs. McGann at 908-789-4463 or mmcgann@westfieldnj12.org.

SPRING CONCERT & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Music in Our Schools Month / Youth Art Month Opening Reception
Tuesday, March 4, 2025
4-6 p.m.

Roig Gallery, 254 East Broad Street
EIS Spring Musical "Shrek The Musical"
Thursday, March 6, 2025
4:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, March 7-8, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Edison Auditorium

RIS Spring Musical "Rock of Ages: Youth Edition"
Thursday, March 13
4:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, March 14-15
7:00 p.m.

Roosevelt Auditorium
WHS Spring Musical "Smile"

Thursday-Saturday, March 20-22, 2025
7:30 p.m.

WHS Auditorium

WHS Chamber Music
Thursday, April 10, 2025
7:00 p.m.

WHS Cafeteria B

WHS Mayhem
Saturday, May 3, 2025
7:00 p.m.

WHS Auditorium

WHS Percussion Concert
Thursday, May 15, 2025
7:30 p.m.

WHS Cafeteria B

Arts on the Lawn at WHS

Saturday, May 17, 2025
11:00 a.m.

EIS Grade 6 & 7 Band

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Edison Auditorium

RIS Band

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Roosevelt Auditorium

WHS Orchestra

Thursday, May 22, 2025
7:30 p.m.

WHS Auditorium

WHS Chorus

Thursday, May 29, 2025
7:30 p.m.

WHS Auditorium

EIS Grade 6 Orchestra & Choir

Monday, June 2, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Edison Auditorium

RIS Jazz & Afternoon Ramble

Monday, June 2, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Roosevelt Auditorium

WHS Jazz

Tuesday, June 3, 2025
7:30 p.m.

WHS Auditorium

District Art Show

Tuesday, June 3, 2025
Wednesday, June 4, 2025
3:00 -7:30 p.m.

WHS Gym 5

All City Festival

Wednesday, June 4, 2025
7:00 p.m.

WHS Auditorium

WHS Band

Thursday, June 5, 2025
7:30 p.m.

WHS Auditorium

RIS Grade 6 & 8 Chorus

Monday, June 9, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Roosevelt Auditorium

RIS Grade 7 Chorus & Sharps & Flats

Monday, June 9, 2025
8:00 p.m.

Roosevelt Auditorium

EIS Grade 7 Orchestra & Choir

Monday, June 9, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Edison Auditorium

EIS Grade 8 Band, Chorus, Orchestra

Wednesday, June 11, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Edison Auditorium

EIS Select Ensembles

Wednesday, June 11, 2025
8:00 p.m.

Edison Auditorium

RIS Orchestra

Wednesday, June 11, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Roosevelt Auditorium

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MARCH EVENTS FOR ADULTS

3/3 @ 1-2:30pm or 7-8:30pm Interfaith Book Club "The Amen Effect"

3/4 @ 7-8pm Collector Lance Jacobs presents "Vinyl Revival"

3/5 @ 12-2pm Prevention Links Table

3/5 @ 2-3pm School Budget Overview

3/6 @ 1-3pm Crafting with Marge-Faux Stained Glass

3/6 @ 7-8:30pm Breaking Barriers-Cultural Competency Workshop-Part 2

3/7, 14, 21 & 28 @ 3-4pm The Fundamentals of Tai Chi by Gang Huang

3/8 @ 1-4pm Blue Grass Jam. For more info: mmabrams@gmail.com

3/20 @ 6:30-8pm Crafterdark-bring your own projects to work with like-minded crafters

3/25 @ 7-8:30pm Celebrating the Timeless Songs of Broadway with Bonnie Rapp

3/27 @ 7-8:30pm Sustainable Landscaping with the Green Team

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ANNUAL SHARING THE QUILTS SHOW – MARCH 22

Harvest Quilters of Central New Jersey

Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 41st annual quilt show on Saturday, March 22, 2025. The 41st Sharing the Quilts will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., Elsa Hahn of Edison will show her work and speak on “Surface Design – Making it Personal.” The award-winning quilter and retired Westfield music teacher will share her firsthand knowledge of various art quilting techniques, including the pros and cons of popular methods.

Janice M. Tellier of Mountainside will be recognized as 2025’s Featured Quilter. The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) graduate and lifelong creative spirit will display 20 plus works of original art. Of her 14 vibrant bed-sized quilts Tellier quipped, “I often think my beds are better dressed than I am.”

Tellier’s whimsical fiber art will be featured alongside her acrylic paintings, crochet, examples of bobbin lace making and a fascinating diorama of a miniature modern quilting studio. “My hope is to have the quilts speak to the viewer, with a sense of humor or play on words,” Tellier said.

As is tradition, local charities will benefit from drawings for a modern lap-sized quilt, a traditional queen-sized bed quilt, gift cards and

craft themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer’s choice awards, kid’s crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church programs.

For additional information, please visit harvestquilters.com, or email: harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com.



(above) Janice M. Tellier will be recognized as 2025’s Featured Quilter.

Courtesy photo

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ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING DERBY - APRIL 12

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club Annual Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at Echo Lake Park in Westfield, NJ. The event is free for children under 16, and \$10 for adults who wish to participate. Sign up is early morning 7:30/8:00 a.m. and throughout the event.

Tagged Fish will be stocked that day so the children can see them get stocked. Prizes are awarded for different species of fish. This is an ongoing event until May 3 so if a child cannot fish that day they can sign up and send in their tag if they catch a tagged fish up to the deadline that tags will be received.


You may donate and sponsor a fish for this event. Download our form online at nbfcc.org, we can mail one to you, or stop in at Ponzio's, 211 Union Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ.

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was founded in 1907 and remains the oldest fishing club in the nation. We are listed on Amazon Smile and are a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit. We provide outings to support veterans, adults and children as well as people with disabilities which focus on environmental education, fishing knowledge and practice. We are always looking for new members, donations, and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved. Our monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st St., Kenilworth, NJ, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July

and August). There is no fee to attend a meeting. For more information visit nbfcc.org or contact Bob Jones: BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com, 908-325-6657.



(above) The Newark Bait and Fly casting Club Annual Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at Echo Lake Park in Westfield, NJ. - Photo from 2019 Derby



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ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER DEDICATES RENOVATED MAIN HALL

The St. Joseph's community, including residents from Elizabeth and volunteers and supporters from five counties in New Jersey, came together on February 8 to celebrate the renovation of the Main Hall on its campus. The Hall is the main building at the agency, used to provide a wide array of social services to residents in need in Elizabeth. The renovated Main Hall includes new private offices for mental health counseling and case management services, new facilities for the soup kitchen program, new spaces for the Adult Learning Center and health and nutrition workshops and diagnostic testing, and a reception area where residents can obtain information about agency programs and community services. Karen Maher, President of the Board of Trustees, noted that these new spaces have "allowed the agency to expand services to the community, particularly in the areas of physical and behavioral health."

The renovation of the Main Hall marks the successful completion of a comprehensive facilities improvement plan for the agency. From

the initial planning phase five years ago, the principal objectives of this plan have been to 1) enhance and expand services to families and children in need in Elizabeth; and 2) offer services in an environment with greater dignity. "Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1986," noted Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director. "Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are truly welcomed as sisters and brothers."

The renovations have created new spaces to serve the needs of Elizabeth residents more effectively. The private offices for counseling and case management, for example, now allow staff to speak with residents in confidence about mental and physical health issues, family dynamics and personal trauma. The Adult Learning Center now has a dedicated space for English as a Second Language classes and for

work skills training sessions. Community healthcare partners have state of the art spaces to test and diagnose residents on health issues. There is now adequate space to offer health, nutrition and wellness workshops. The soup kitchen now has new equipment and better workflow to serve food. And the reception desk finally gives the agency a central place for residents to come to access agency and community partner resources. All of these spaces have allowed the agency to improve and expand services.

Guests at the dedication included contributors to the \$1.6 million capital campaign to finance the renovations, community leaders in Elizabeth and Union County, agency volunteers and partners and residents of the local neighborhood. As part of the dedication program, soup kitchen volunteers convened to recognize the founders of the agency by naming the new soup kitchen the "Founders Kitchen" in the Main Hall. Remarkably, the soup kitchen has served guests every single Saturday for 2025 weeks without interruption since the agency was established. Founder and longtime Executive Director of the agency, Sister Jacinta Fernandes, traveled from her community in Maryland to attend the dedication. All in attendance toured the Founders Kitchen and other renovated spaces in the Main Hall and participated in a moving dedication ceremony.

Six days a week a dedicated team of more than 6,000 volunteers from Elizabeth, Union, Clark, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside and dozens of other communities, make sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's serves over 3,500 individuals annually. The organization helps Elizabeth residents access food, medicine, mental health counseling, adult education, clothing and a myriad of additional healthcare and support services.

To learn more about St. Joseph Social Service Center, please visit www.sjeliz.org



(above, l-r) Msgr. Tom Nydegger St. Helen's Westfield, Marilyn Ryan St. Helen's Westfield, Steven Abood St. Helen's Westfield, Sr. Jacinta Fernandes Founder of St. Joseph's, Ray Kostyack, Jr. St. Helen's Westfield, Cindy Abood St. Helen's Westfield, Annette Calderin St. Joseph Social Service Center Elizabeth, Maria Chaillet St. John's Clark, Shirley, Doris & Idali Ramirez Immaculate Conception Elizabeth, Jerry Conheeneey St. Michael's Cranford, Aswm. Annette Quijano LD 20, Joan Garthwaite Holy Spirit Union, Harold Kessler Building Project Manager & St. Helen's, Michael Marcus Temple Sha'arey Shalom Springfield, Fr. Anthony Randazzo Holy Trinity Westfield, Second.

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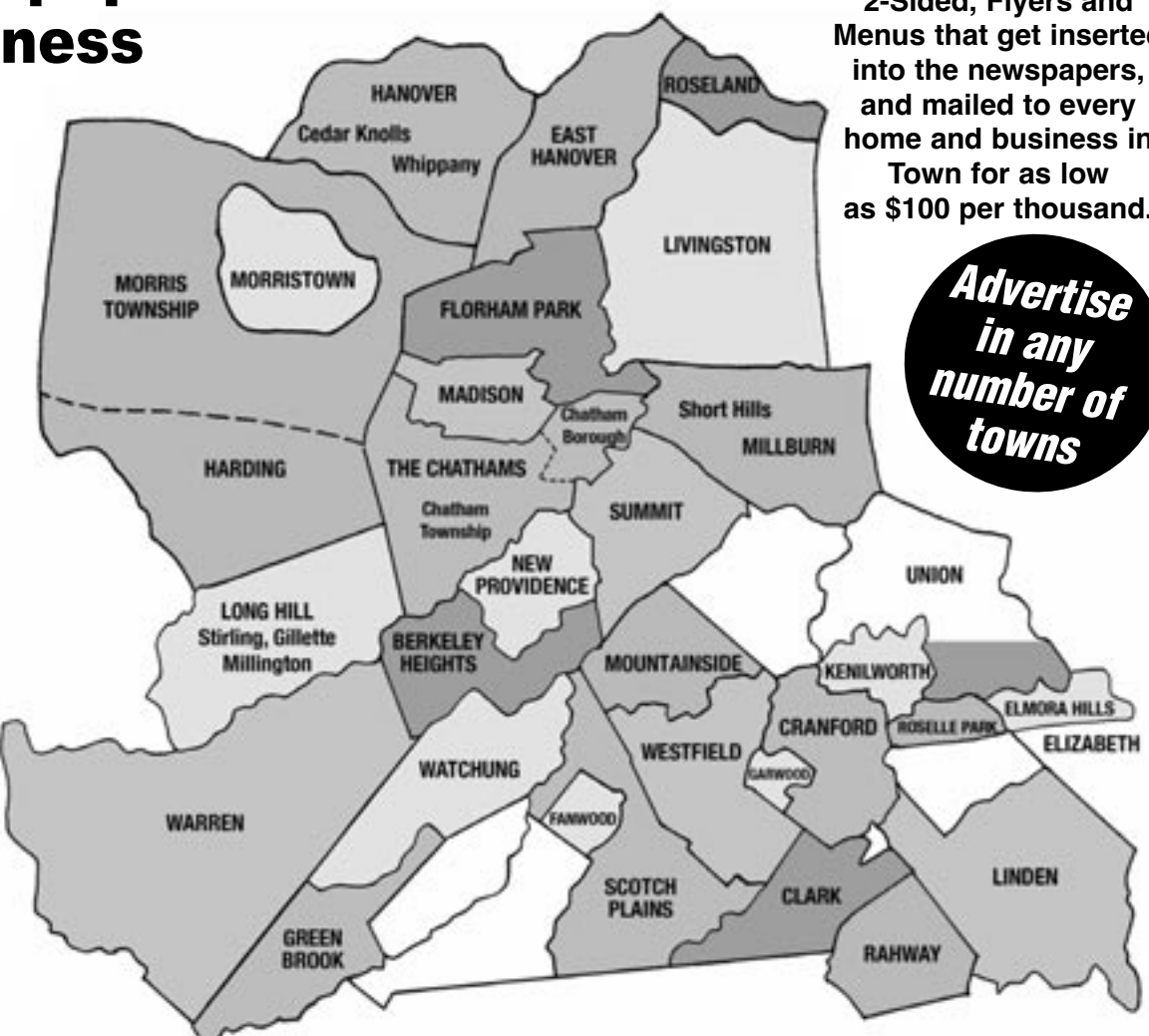
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9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) is pleased to announce that in 2025 we will be awarding three \$4,000 scholarships to college bound women who reside in Union County and demonstrate a passion for volunteerism.

The JLEP believes that volunteerism is a vital force in our community, and we support young women who share our passion by awarding scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteer activities. The scholarships will be awarded in May 2025.

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants are asked to complete the application form, write a 300-to-400-word essay about their volunteer experiences, and provide two letters of recommendation. The application form is available on our website, jlepnj.org, or can also be obtained by sending a request via email to scholarship@jlepnj.org or by leaving a message

with your address and/or email address at 908-709-1177.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 4, 2025. There will be a formal presentation of the scholarships to the recipients at the JLEP's Annual Dinner on May 21, 2025.

To find out more about the League's scholarship program or about how to join as a member, please contact the League at 908-709-1177, via email at scholarship@jlepnj.org, or visit our website at jlepnj.org.

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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