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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CELEBRATES YEAR OF GIVING

Submitted by Jennifer Cooney

As we close out 2025 and reflect on the power of generosity in our town, the Fanwood Community Foundation (FCF) extends heartfelt thanks to the residents, donors, and partners who helped make this year's accomplishments possible. Through your support, the FCF provided grants that strengthened programs, expanded essential services, and uplifted neighbors across our community. Our mission has always been to support local nonprofits so they can better serve Fanwood residents - and this year, your contributions helped turn that mission into meaningful action.

This year FCF awarded \$11,766 in grants to eight local nonprofit organizations whose work strengthens and uplifts our community in meaningful ways. These grants supported critical initiatives addressing food insecurity, promoting joy and wellness for individuals and families facing financial and health challenges, providing essential protective equipment and tools for our local emergency responders, and supporting crisis hotline training to better serve those in need. We encourage residents to learn more about these organizations and support their efforts.

Each of these organizations plays a meaningful role in strengthening the fabric of our town, and we are honored to support their work. Additional details about these grants, along with opportunities to get involved, can be found on our website at fanwoodcommunityfoundation.org

One of our proudest achievements this year was once again meeting our goal of raising \$2,025 for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) during our annual virtual holiday food drive. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, this campaign helped address food insecurity during a critical time of year. In addition, FCF matched this



(above) Rev. Michael Ward, K.H.S., Pastor with several FCF board members. Check presentation for \$2,025 from our 2025 virtual food drive. The community donated over \$2,025 to the Community Food Bank of NJ and FCF matched it with a donation of \$2,025 to the Immaculate Heart Mary Food Pantry.

effort with our own \$2,025 donation to the IHM Food Pantry, which serves families and individuals right here in our community. These contributions reflect the spirit of compassion and neighbor-to-neighbor support that defines Fanwood.

As we look ahead to the new year, we do so with gratitude, pride, and renewed commitment to our community. For the love of Fanwood - thank you for your support in 2025. Your generosity makes everything we do possible.

We wish all of our neighbors a healthy, happy, and prosperous year ahead. Let's continue to make a difference together.



(above) Representatives of all 8 grant recipient organizations in 2025 including Caring Contact, Fanwood Fire Company, Fanwood Rescue Squad, Fanwood Scotch Plains YMCA, Jam Kancer in the Kan, Union County College Foundation, Wolves Basketball, and Education Enrichment Foundation of SPF.

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PRESENTATION ON KRAMER MANOR - FEB. 24TH

Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood

“Kramer Manor” is the captivating history of a Black Community located right here in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. It proudly marked its centennial in 1924 and, less than a year later, it celebrated another historic designation— inclusion in the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. Kramer Manor, a neighborhood comprising approximately one hundred households, has a rich history. For most of its 100+ years it stood as an all-Black enclave, but today it has transformed into a thriving and desirable multicultural community of single-family homes and green spaces.

The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood is honored to have Jill Jackson-Jones, a respected member of our community, share her insights and educate us about Kramer Manor at our upcoming February 24th evening meeting. Jill, who grew up in the Kramer Manor neighborhood in the 1970's and 1980's, now resides in her childhood home. Her dedication to preserving the history of Kramer Manor is evident in her role as a member of the Social Justice Matters (SJM) organization. Alongside Pamela Brooks, another SJM member, Jill spearheaded the process of tracing the history of Kramer Manor. Their efforts culminated in the successful application for Kramer Manor's

inclusion in the Black Heritage Trail. Beyond her remarkable contributions to SJM, Jill and her husband Felton Jones, own a Southern Catering service on E. 2nd Street, Scotch Plains.

The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood cordially invites you to join us for this timely meeting on Tuesday evening February 24th, starting at 7:30 p.m. Prepare to be amazed by this remarkable history of this neighborhood of 51 acres. In 1924, it was purchased by a New York City-based real estate firm, Kramer Realities, Inc. The owners, brothers Harry and Hyman Kramer of Russian-Jewish heritage, actively marketed it as a destination for black families.

Join us as we delve into the obstacles faced and overcome by these pioneering buyers. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to this enriching meeting and embark on a journey through the captivating story and legacy of Kramer Manor. The meeting is free and open to all, and it is held at the historic Shady Rest Country Club, another significant landmark on the Black Heritage Trail. Located at 820 Jerusalem Road (at the corner of Plainfield Avenue) in Scotch Plains, the club offers a historic setting for refreshments and fellowship after the presentation.

For further information contact Connie Klock at tonniebeth@verizon.net or 908-337-7735.

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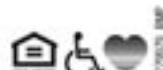
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GOV'S EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Each year, New Jersey school districts nominate their educators for the prestigious Governor's Educator of the Year Award through the New Jersey Department of Education. The program seeks to recognize educators "who have gone above and beyond in their service to New Jersey's students" and to create a culture that recognizes excellence and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools recently recognized 15 exceptional teachers and educational services professionals nominated for the 2025-2026 Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Program.

"On behalf of the entire district, congratulations to the 15 teachers and educational services professionals who were recognized for this outstanding honor," said Superintendent Dr. Joan Mast. "Their dedication to student success is noticed and appreciated."

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR :

- Anne Guard, Nettingham Spanish Teacher
- Kathleen Daniele, Nettingham Classroom Aide
- Kathy McArdle, Evergreen First Grade Teacher
- Celina Merejo, Evergreen Classroom Aide
- Andrea Karanik, SPFHS Social Studies Teacher
- Richard Dorry, SPFHS Student Assistance Specialist
- Katherine (Kate) Szczebel, School One Kindergarten Teacher
- Holly Hindin, School One Classroom Aide
- Emily Bentivegna, Brunner Special Education Teacher
- Marissa Kurtz, Brunner Speech/Language Specialist
- Elizabeth Sinnott, McGinn Special Education Teacher
- Kamini Sanghvi, McGinn Classroom Aide
- Kari Weinglass, Coles Special Education Teacher
- Dawn Haligowski, Coles Classroom Aide
- Nora Shalan, Terrill English/LA Teacher

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UNICO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DEADLINE MARCH 1

Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter of UNICO will once again be holding its annual Memorial Scholarship Program. All Scotch Plains and Fanwood high school seniors of verifiable Italian heritage are eligible to apply for a scholarship to help defray costs of their first year of post-secondary education.

While students must be residents of Scotch Plains or Fanwood, they can attend any high school, even if the school is outside the local area. Students will need to provide a wide range of information regarding their academic performance, Italian heritage verification, extracurricular and community involvement, and so forth. Additionally, parents and/or guardians will supply household income information. Once

applicants submit their information, SP-F UNICO members will review all applications - which will be anonymous to ensure fairness - and select their top choices for scholarship awards. The scholarship awards are as follows:

- Four (4) \$2500 scholarships to students attending four-year higher education institution
- One (1) \$1500 scholarship to a student attending a two-year community college
- One (1) \$1500 scholarship to a student attending a vocational, technical, or trade school program

All applications are due no later than 11:59 pm on March 1. To learn more about and submit their applications to the scholarship program, students should visit tinyurl.com/spunicoscholarships.

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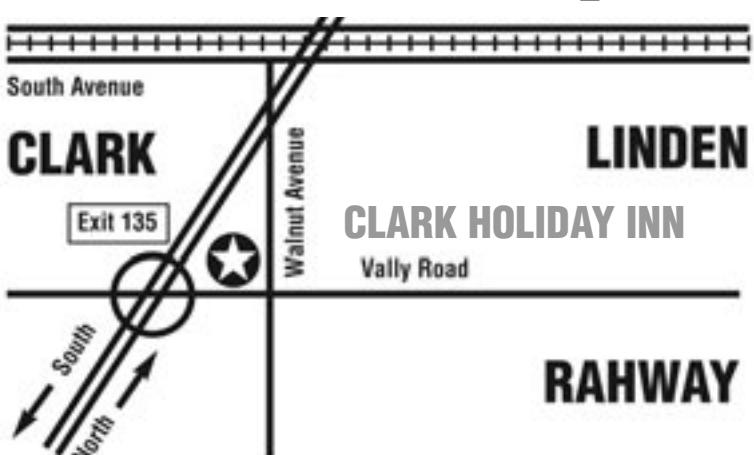
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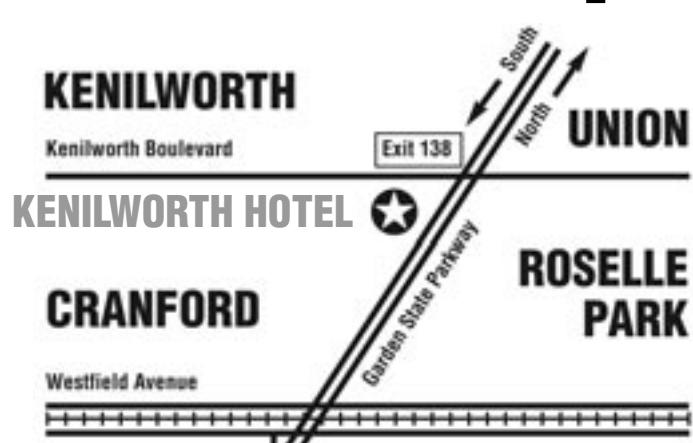
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ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST - FEBRUARY 22

Submitted by Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad's 16th annual Pancake Breakfast will take place on Sunday, February 22, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at its building located at 1916 Bartle Avenue. This event is hosted by the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Auxiliary, which raises funds for the volunteer squad.

All-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage, along

MOBILE MEALS ANNUAL APPEAL

Mobile Meals of Westfield's new President, Solange Bueno, continues the non-profit organization's annual appeal solicitation to raise capital from supporters and organization volunteers to help fund the food program for those individuals unable to prepare or shop for food for themselves. Mobile Meals has served the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield in providing hot, affordable, prepared meals delivered to client residences since 1968. The non-profit receives no government funding and relies on contributions from donors and grants to sustain the cost of food and operations.

Mobile Meals of Westfield continues to seek donations from the community now. A \$55 donation will provide lunch and dinner for one person for one week. A \$220 donation provides lunch and dinner for 20 people. Donations in any amount are most sincerely appreciated.

For anyone interested in donating to Mobile Meals of Westfield, please call 908-233-6146, or visit mobilemealsofwestfield.org/donate, or scan this QR code.



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with coffee and juice, will be offered for just an \$8.00 per person entry fee (children 5 and under eat free). There will also be a raffle for baskets filled with gifts and goodies donated by the community and area businesses.

It's clear from the number of people who attend that the community looks forward to it every year. Come out with your family and friends and enjoy a hearty, delicious breakfast and good conversation. It's a nice way to spend a Sunday morning and give back at the same time. And for those with mobility issues, downstairs dining will be available.

To help make this annual get-together even more fun and exciting, donations are being collected for gift baskets that will be auctioned off during the event. Only new items will be accepted, and no shoes, clothing, or stuffed animals are needed.

Please consider donating items for inclusion in the following themed basket prizes:

- Baking - Wellness - Gardening - Sports - Pets - Health - Children - Scrapbooking - Coffee/Tea - Comic Books - Arts and Crafts - Italian Dinner - Games - Vacation - Holiday Items and Crazy Socks. Baskets and ribbon would also be very much appreciated.

We also encourage donors to create their own gift baskets using the themes above. This would be a great project for a family, a scout troop, or other groups looking to contribute to this worthy fundraiser.

The Auxiliary will be collecting donations through February 14, on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The drop-off location is the Squad building at 1916 Bartle Avenue.

If interested in becoming a member of the Auxiliary, come by the Squad building one evening to pick up an application, or email SPRSAuxiliary@scotchplainsrescuesquad.com.

Thank you for your support!

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM - FEB 16TH

College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains

Dr. Larry Hogan and Mr. Kevin Kane will present the program "Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson: Black Baseball in America in the Era of the Color Line" at Mira Vie 295 South Avenue in Fanwood on February 16th at 7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be provided.

Dr. Larry Hogan is a Professor of History Emeritus from Union County College, where he taught African American History for 37 years. He is the author of several works on this topic, including 'The Forgotten History of African-American Baseball'. Dr. Hogan was the Executive Director of the documentary Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson: Black Baseball in America in the Era of the Color Line. The current program, which features exhibits, has been shown throughout the country. According to John Thorn, official historian for MLB, "Historian Larry Hogan basks in baseball's shadowed fields. He is

a national treasure."

Although black professional baseball began in the 1880s and ended shortly after Hall of Fame player Jackie Robinson entered the game, there is little public awareness of this important history. Dr. Logan's program affirms the importance of this history, and its great players, while explaining the historical context and barriers faced by these heroes. Selections from the documentary Dr. Hogan directed will be played, and Mr. Kevin Kane will also present his poem "Breaking the Line with the Mudville Nine." Mr. Kane is a writer, musician, and playwright. His Negro League poetic response to poem "Casey at the Bat" has been performed at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

This public program is sponsored by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains. To join the club, which is a nonprofit raising scholarship funds for local women, or to learn about donating to the club, visit fspcollegeclub.org.

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This fast-paced ensemble comedy celebrates acceptance, forgiveness, and the true meaning of family. At the Steinberg wedding, nothing is what

it seems; religions collide, Machiavellian plots are revealed, promises are broken, secrets are exposed and hope springs from the most unlikely of places. The charming, funny musical, *It Shoulda Been You*, invites you to a wedding day that you'll never forget, with blushing brides, nervous grooms, overbearing moms, unexpected guests and plenty of crazy twists and turns. Anything that can go wrong does, and love pops up in mysterious places.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays from February 13th- 28th at 8pm, and Sundays February 22 and March 1 at 2pm.

CDC Theatre is happy to announce that as part of a new pilot program, the February 22nd matinee performance will be ASL interpreted. For tickets and more details, visit cdctheatre.org.



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Qty: 7,600

Zip: 07928

Qty: 6,800

Zip: 07066

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Elmora
Hills

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Zip: 07016

Qty: 4,700

Zip: 07936

Qty: 5,400

Zip: 07208

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Park
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Garwood
Times

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Zip: 07023

Qty: 6,000

Zip: 07932

Qty: 2,500

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LEADER

MADISON
MONTHLY

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MILLBURN
MONTHLY

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07946, 07980

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Zip: 07940

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Qty: 13,500

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Qty: 6,500

Zip: 07059

Qty: 1600

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MONTHLY

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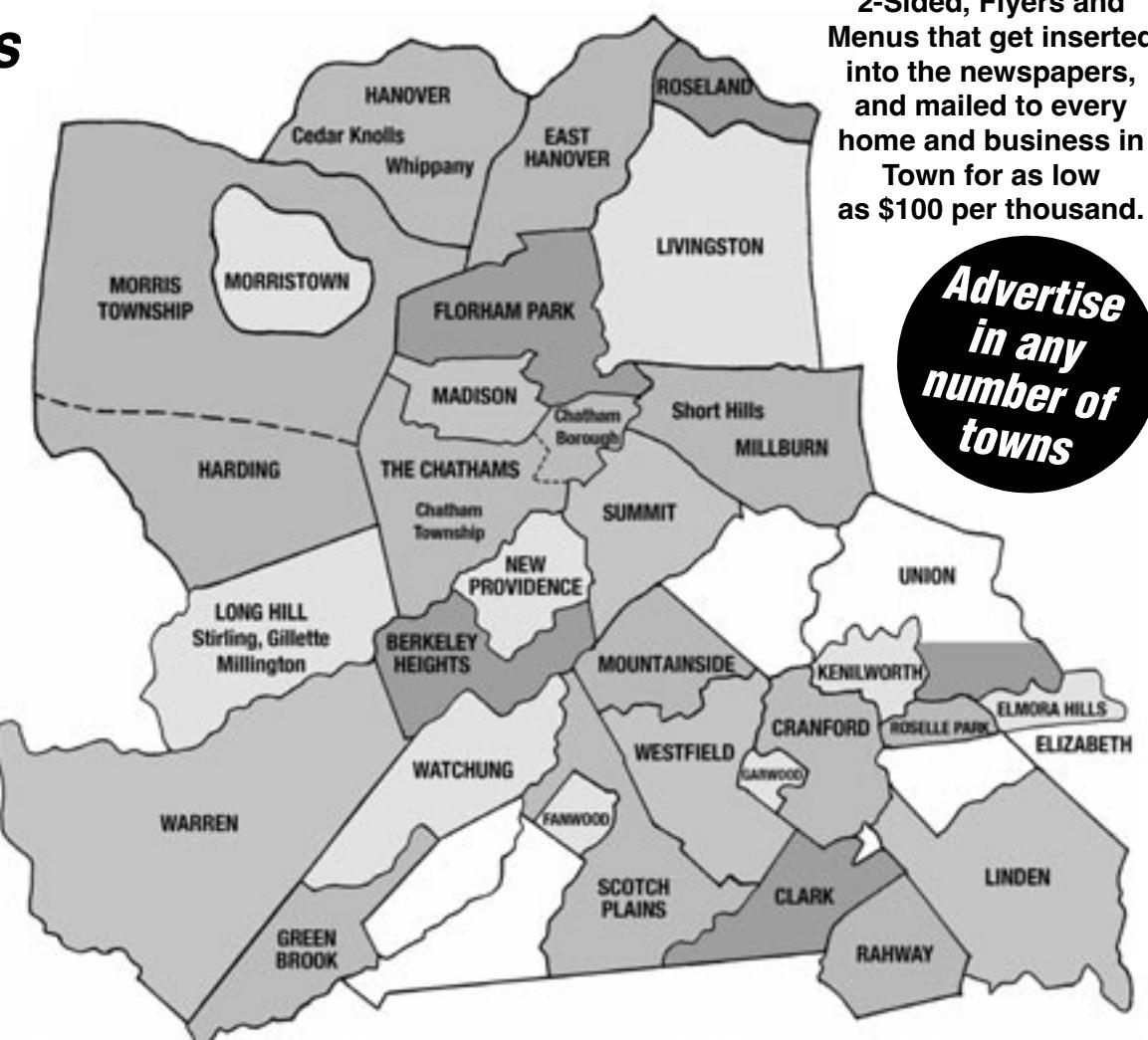
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6 Units 6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE 6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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18 FULL PAGE 10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
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SP-F SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP - DUE FEB. 6TH

Graduating High School Seniors and current college students in Scotch Plains and Fanwood are invited to apply for scholarships to support their post-high school educational endeavors.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation is currently accepting applications for high school seniors graduating in 2026 who reside in Scotch Plains or Fanwood, and residents currently attending college or other post high school institutions for scholarships. Electronic applications are now available at spfscholarshipfoundation.org.

The numerous scholarships offered by the Foundation range in criteria; some awards are need-based, while others have criteria such as the intent to pursue an education in a particular field or participation in certain activities in high school. The major criterion for eligibility is that the applicant resides in Scotch Plains or

Fanwood; an applicant need not be a graduate of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. In addition to the application, the Foundation requires a personal essay from the applicant, a letter of reference, and an official high school or college transcript.

The deadline for the Foundation to receive applications - and any supporting documents as indicated - is February 6, 2026 at 5 p.m. Applicants may submit their applications and other supporting documents via our online application.

"The Foundation is proud to uphold the commitment to support the educational endeavors of the students in our communities," says Michelle Wywra, President of the Foundation. "We could not accomplish this without the kindness and generosity of our donors, and the participation and support from

the community via our fundraising efforts."

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation's Board of Trustees is a 100% volunteer-run 501c3 non-profit organization. To learn more about this year's scholarship offerings, visit spfscholarshipfoundation.org.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION:

Since 1966, The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation has awarded over \$5 million to thousands local students. In addition to the Dollars for Students awards, the Foundation administers over 85 separate honorary and memorial scholarships. Scholarship assistance is made possible by Scotch Plains and Fanwood businesses, organizations, community members, and other contributions.

For more information visit
www.spfscholarshipfoundation.org.

COLLEGE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP - DUE FEB. 14TH

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains 2026-2027 scholarship application forms can be obtained from the SPFHS Counseling Office or at spfk12.org or fspcollegeclub.org.

This will be the 90th year that female students seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree have been helped by our club's fund-raising efforts. To date the College Club has awarded approximately \$843,000 in scholarships to approximately 608 women.

In the words of one of our recipients: "From the bottom of my heart, I thank the College Club for investing in my education. It means the

world to me that I have a team of female supporters who saw something in me and spent their precious time and energy to raise the scholarship money that will allow me to further my education and pursue my dreams. I hope that one day I can return the favor and share the same generosity with future candidates."

Application materials must be postmarked ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 14, 2026 to be considered.

The Scholarship Committee will be ready to begin reviewing applications the first week of March. The list of 2026- 2027 Scholarship Recipients will be finalized in mid-April.



(above) Jane Barnes, one of last year's scholarship recipients, is pictured with College Club member Marie Leppert

Courtesy Photo

Gina Suriano Barber Making Moves Happen
Cell: 908-917-4577 • 908-233-5555
Westfield East Office: 209 Central Avenue
www.GinaSellsNJHomes.com



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UGLY HOMES WANTED

A television and streaming renovation project is seeking a limited number of homeowners in this area with outdated or distressed homes requiring substantial remodeling. This opportunity is for full-scale renovations only-not cosmetic repairs.

Selected projects may qualify for professionally documented renovations, special project pricing, and potential homeowner compensation in exchange for filming participation and release.

Call 833-375-1472

Ask for the TV Project Department
Serious inquiries only.



FANWOOD
Community Foundation

Dear Neighbor,

Our heartfelt thanks for making a difference in our community - your support helped make 2025 a great year for our neighbors. Our community is stronger and more vibrant because of generous people like you.

Your contributions supported our 2025 grant recipients, including Caring Contact; the Fanwood Fire Department; the Fanwood Rescue Squad; the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA; Jam Kancer in the Kan Foundation; the Union County College Foundation; Wolves Basketball; and the Education Enrichment Foundation of Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

FCF also continued its commitment to combating food insecurity by sponsoring a virtual food drive, volunteering at the IHM Food Pantry in Scotch Plains, and gifting the pantry \$2,025.

As we kick off our 2026 For the Love of Fanwood Annual Appeal, we invite you to join us in continuing this important work. Donations are easy and tax-deductible. You may give by mail (using the enclosed reply card), by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting our website at www.fanwoodcommunityfoundation.org and clicking the "Donate" button.

If you are considering planned giving, we would be happy to help you meet your charitable goals. Please feel free to contact financial professional Peter Chemidlin at (908) 322-1800 for more information.

Thank you again for your continued support of FCF and our mission. Together, let's make 2026 another incredible year for our community.

For the Love of Fanwood,

Stephen J. Magelinski, President
Fanwood Community Foundation



Become a Donor

Donations can be made by sending a check, payable to the **FANWOOD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** and mailing to PO Box 242, Fanwood, NJ 07023. Or scan the QR code to pay by credit card.

FanwoodCommunityFoundation.org

I would like to donate!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

I would like to volunteer to help Fanwood.

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to Fanwood Community Foundation
Mail to, PO Box 242, Fanwood, NJ 07023.



The Fanwood Community Foundation owes its inception to four individuals committed to giving back to the community where they lived and raised their children. Bob and Carol Kraus, Fred Chemidlin, and Ted Frankenbach had the idea to form this Foundation funded largely by their donations to better the Fanwood community that means so much to them. We are grateful for their initiative and generosity; we strive to continue the vision they had for the Foundation and the mission to meet the needs of the Fanwood community.



Apply for a Grant

If you are a local nonprofit organization which serves the social, physical, educational, civic, and cultural needs of the community, you are invited to submit a grant proposal. Grants are funded from the Foundation's earned income. Grant period runs annually from May 1 through September 1.



FANWOOD
Community Foundation

FanwoodCommunityFoundation.org