



women aware

MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

Helping victims,
their families
and our community
move beyond abuse
for 35 years.

"I expect to pass through life but
once. If therefore, there be any kind-
ness I can show, or any good thing I
can do to any fellow being, let me do
it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I
shall not pass this way again."

- William Penn

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From the Executive Director



2015 was a milestone year for Women Aware. In October, we marked our 35th year as the domestic violence service agency for Middlesex County. Over the last four decades we have helped thousands of victims reclaim their lives and move beyond abuse.

As I reflect on this milestone, I am struck by the impact our work has well beyond the life of each victim we serve. You see, left unchallenged, domestic violence is a learned behavior passed down from generation to generation. It impacts the entire family as well as the broader community. Abuse may lead to illnesses caused by stress, substance abuse and depression; it is a leading cause of homelessness, lost work productivity, diminished earning power; and on and on. Tragically, it is the children who will suffer most.

I am blessed to lead the skillful and dedicated staff of Women Aware who work every day to save lives. Our work is supported by individuals and organizations in our community who offer their time and resources to ensure that we can offer a safe bed, a caring hand and a new start for every victim. We are immensely grateful for that support. With thanks, I offer this reflection of our collective efforts to fight injustice.

Together, we are changing lives with kindness and all that is Good. We are moving -- at least our corner of the world -- closer to becoming a just society. Let us do what we can today, it will have an impact long beyond our own precious time on earth.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Phyllis'.

Phyllis Adams, MSW, MA, DVS
Executive Director

Anniversary Celebration

Women Aware marked 35 years of service on October 8, 2015, by celebrating our work and honoring community leaders who help advance our mission:

Judge Marina Corodemus
Senator Joseph Vitale
Jane Kurek, Provident Bank Foundation
Detective Danilo Gallardo
New Brunswick Police Department

The event offered guests an insider view into the journey of a survivor, featuring dynamic, interactive stations that tap into what it means to move beyond abuse.

There was live music, wine and hors d'oeuvres, and guided museum tours of the beautiful Zimmerli Museum.



35th Anniversary Benefit Committee: Edward Cross, Linda VanderVeer, Nancy Drumright, Diane Palmer, Phyllis Adams, Joe Del Guercio, Jessica Oppenheimer, Lois Kahagi, Patricia Whitehouse, Tina Dave, Pratima Patel



Our profound gratitude to sponsors of the 35th anniversary celebration.



Yissel Comacho

Yissel Comacho was rushed to the ER clinging to consciousness. Her husband had repeatedly kicked her in the head, fracturing her cheekbone and eye socket.

Two years and four surgeries later, it's hard for others to tell how far she has come. But she can tell you about the times how, in a jealous rage, her husband threatened her with a chainsaw, with a bucket of bleach. All because he wanted to mark her. He wanted her disfigured so she would not be attractive to anyone else.

The Department of Child Protection and Permanency was called to the hospital that November night because Yissel's 7 year-old daughter and 9 year-old son were there, too. Child protection services made arrangements for Yissel and her children at our Safe House.

"The Safe House is usually a bustling place," says Maria Betanzos, Assistant Executive Director. "But the moment Yissel walked through the door there was absolute silence." Even experienced staff were shocked at how visibly close to death she had come.



Yissel today



After helping Yissel secure a Temporary Restraining Order against her husband, Women Aware connected her with Central Jersey Legal Services which provides free legal representation. She got a Final Restraining Order and her husband was charged with aggravated assault.

The assault left Yissel permanently disabled and unable to return to work. Women Aware connected Yissel with financial and medical resources to help her get on her feet, including a two year grant from the New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office.

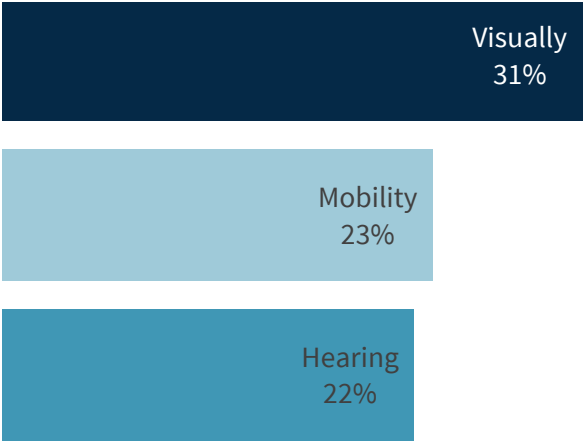
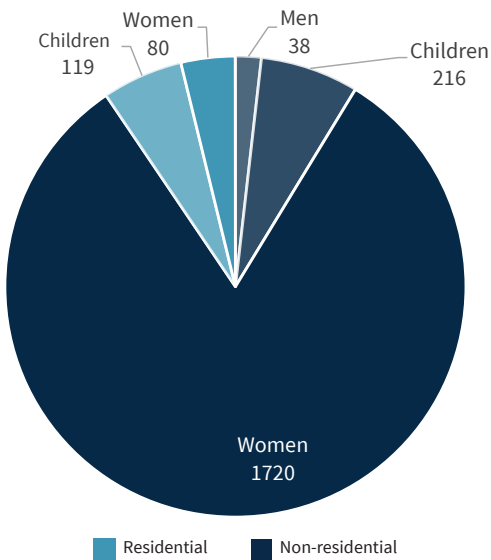
On March 15, 2013 Yissel and her children moved into their own apartment. They achieved our ultimate goal for clients: to find safe, stable, affordable housing.

Yissel's doctors are planning at least one more surgery on her eyes. Once medical treatment is complete, she will be eligible for free cosmetic surgery through the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Her victory will be in feeling beautiful again, in erasing the scars he left on her.

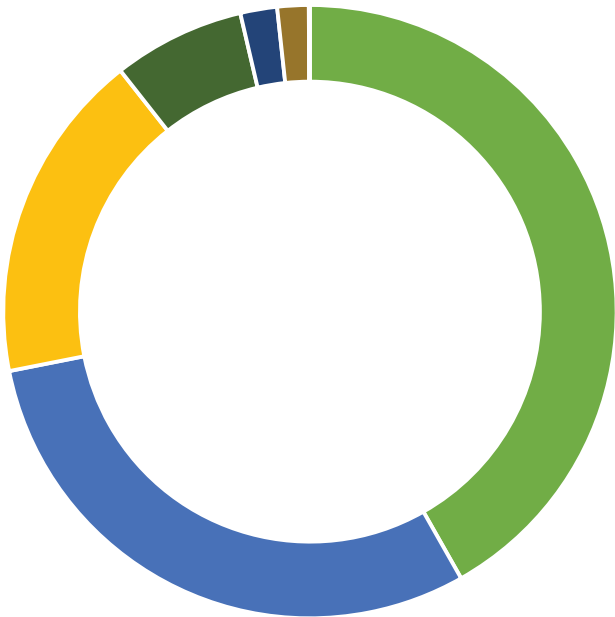
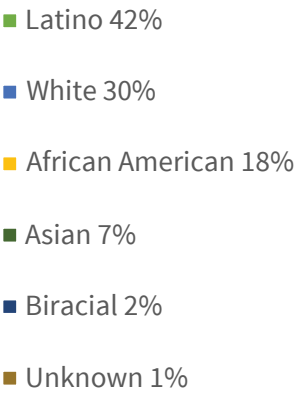
Yissel is coming to terms with her functional hearing loss, blindness in her right eye, and blurred vision in the left. All she wants is justice—for herself and for others. "Looking back now, I see how blind I was. I didn't understand what was happening. I didn't know there was help out there." She found the courage to tell her deeply personal and painful story so that others might see.

Who we serve.

Women Aware served **1 in 8** of all victims receiving domestic violence services in New Jersey last year.



% of domestic violence clients statewide with impairments served by Women Aware last year, according to the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence.



Our Work.

We help clients break down the barriers that keep them trapped in abusive relationships. We provide free, confidential, trauma-informed services thanks to the generous support of individuals and organizations in our community.

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HOTLINE

Victims of physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse call our hotline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to get help, answers and reassurance.

Our multi-lingual staff assesses each caller's situation, including the need for emergency shelter. They help the caller develop safety strategies and connect her/him with additional resources in the community.

2015

5,804 hotline calls answered

5,192 callers received safety strategies

5,452 callers were given information for
local resources



SAFE HOUSE

When victims are in imminent danger, they need to be sheltered in a safe and secure environment.

Our 24-bed emergency shelter is staffed and monitored 24/7. For victims who arrive with nothing, we provide meals, clothing, toiletries, and a private bedroom. The house is handicap accessible (important since disabled women are 40% more likely to be abused) and we are able to accommodate mothers and children with special needs.

Our professional staff works closely with each family. In fact, our shelter residents get 2.3 times more services than those in other shelters around the state. We address the financial, medical, legal, emotional and educational needs of each client. Our goal is to help families find safe, stable and affordable housing.

2015

- 197 clients sheltered
- 96% occupancy rate
- Average stay of 43 nights
- 27,726 meals served
- 82% clients leave to stable housing



COUNSELING

Creative Arts Therapy

Without intervention, children exposed to abuse are at risk of becoming abusers or victims themselves. Traditional psychotherapy is ineffective for children who do not have the words to understand or express what has happened to them.

Women Aware offers a creative arts therapy program for children ages 3 to 12. Children process traumatic memories through painting, drawing, music and role-play to begin the healing process.

Support Groups

After years of demeaning treatment, victims of domestic violence feel worthless and hopeless. In support groups, they share stories, learn about the complex dynamics of domestic violence, and begin to move beyond abuse.

Responsible Fatherhood Program

In 2013 Women Aware partnered with the New Jersey State Department of Children and Families to launch one of the first pilot batterer intervention programs in the state. Through a structured 26-week program, these men learn to recognize their abusive behaviors, understand the impact it has on their families, and integrate strategies for nonviolent lives.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

One of the biggest barriers to sustaining a life free of abuse is the lack of affordable housing. Victims often don't have the financial resources to make rent, and so face the difficult choice of returning to their abuser or becoming homeless. 30% of families living in Middlesex County shelters in 2014 were victims of domestic violence.

Women Aware was the first agency in New Jersey to provide subsidized, supportive housing for survivors of domestic violence. Residents continue to access our support services as they work with our case managers toward self-sufficiency.

EDUCATION

Knowledge is power.

We provide education programs that empower victims of domestic violence.

- Financial literacy and job readiness training with support from the Allstate Foundation.
- Legal clinics and workshops provided by our pro bono attorney partners.
- Nutrition workshops at our Safe House supported by the Provident Bank Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.
- Parenting workshops that address the unique concerns of families exposed to domestic violence.

OUTREACH

Domestic violence is a silent epidemic. Women Aware raises awareness about abuse and services available to victims. We offer prevention and intervention programs in the communities we serve, with volunteers at local police departments, and at events around the county.

Violence in the household often coincides with child abuse and neglect. Women Aware liaisons serve as consultants to the New Jersey State Department of Children and Families in cases of child abuse in Middlesex County. They provide training to Department of Child Protection and Permanency case managers and coordinate domestic violence services for family members.

INTERNS

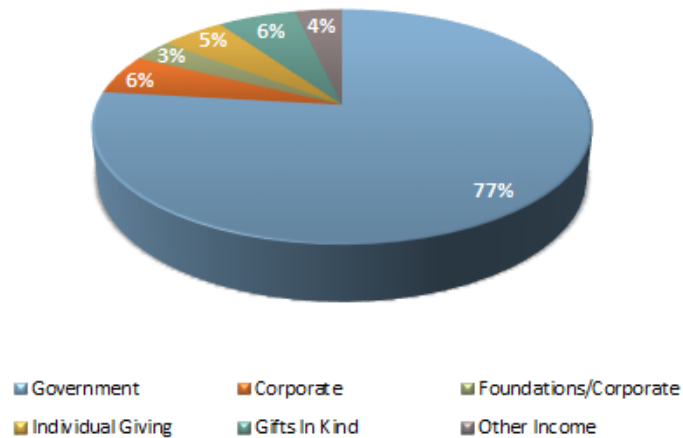
Women Aware supervises Bachelor and Master of Social Work candidates, many from Rutgers University, who are participating in academic internships that are a required part of their curriculum. Last year our interns provided a total of 2,749 hours of client services in our Safe House, Creative Arts Therapy and Legal Advocacy programs. In doing so, they gained real-world experience in working with children and adults affected by trauma. They are then better prepared to serve as counselors in healthcare, human services, and educational settings.

STAFF NOTES

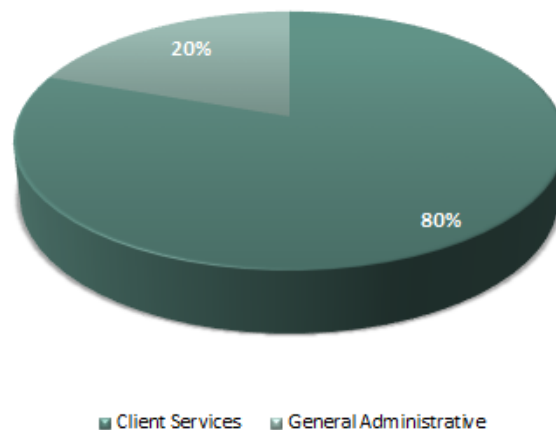
May 2015 Phyllis Adams, Executive Director, was recognized as a leader in the field of human services, with the 2015 Women of Achievement Award from the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and Douglass Residential College.

September 2015 Phyllis Adams, Executive Director, and Maliha Janjua, Director of Client Services, were invited to present at the Third National "Safe & Together" Symposium. They presented on our collaboration with the NJ Department of Child Protection and Permanency.

2015 Revenue



2015 Expenses



To view our complete financial statement, go to womenaware.net/financials

Gifts and Grants



Public funding for victims of domestic violence is often the result of legislation such as the federal *Victims of Crime Act* of 1984 and the *Violence Against Women Act*, passed in 1994.

Funding Partners

Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program
Middlesex County Continuum of Care
Middlesex County, Department of Community Services
New Jersey Department of Agriculture,
Division of Food and Nutrition
New Jersey Department of Children and Families,
Division on Women
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety,
Division of Criminal Justice
United Way of Central Jersey

Private Donors

Gifts from the following individuals and organizations provided life-saving services for the victims of domestic violence that we serve.

\$25,000 +

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Arthur and Debbie Roedel
Verizon Foundation

\$5,000 +

The Allstate Foundation
Anonymous
Benjamin Moore
Corodemus & Corodemus
Marina Corodemus
FedEx Corporation
The IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey
Karma Foundation
The Mary Bradof Foundation
The Provident Bank Foundation

\$1,000 +

Abundant Life Family Worship Church
Adaptik Corporation
AT&T Corporate Employee Giving Programs
Jason S. Camilo, Esq.
Certified Financial Services
Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
Joseph and Mary Ann Del Guercio
Caroline Dorcey
Edward Leske Company
Matthew Flannery and Jeanette Eng
Ruth Hague
Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas, LLP
Henry and Patricia Hunt*
Jacob Irving Foundation
Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies Matching Gifts Program
Richard Levinson
Liquid Church
Neeta Patel*
Provident Bank
Ramatowski, Spilka and Schwartz
Rutgers Pi Delta Psi Fraternity
Ellen Schwartz
Rupal Shah
Trinity Presbyterian Church (East Brunswick)
UBS Financial Services

*Gift includes a corporate match



For over four decades, Arthur and Debbie Roedel have owned and managed Monmouth Mobile Home Park – fondly known to locals as the "communities of nice people".

The Roedels wanted to support Women Aware in a way that would inspire others to do the same. So they committed to match up to \$25,000 in gifts from the community made during the month of December. "What better way to make a difference than to help vulnerable women and children begin a new life," says Arthur. As a result of their challenge, 99 donors responded with a total of \$22,900 in gifts.

\$500 +

Louis and Judy Amorosa
Anonymous
BPM Designs, Inc.
Bruce Bush and Judith Johnston
Joseph and Charlotte Camarota
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The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Ellen Relkin
John and Ann Shamy
Stark & Stark
Virtus Group
William and Patricia Whitehouse
Women's Guild of Rossmoor Community Church

\$100 +

ADP
Isabella Ahern*
The Ale 'N Wich Pub
Christina Alfonso
Roger and Nancy Allen
Allied World
Judith Ambrus
American Endowment Foundation
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Cristina Amyot
Anthony's Plumbing Heating & Cooling Inc.
Amy Antonelli
Dominique Aponte
Asbury-Ms. Locksmithing
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Borough Improvement League (Metuchen)
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 Penelope Gordon
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 St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 Judith Storch
 James and Ramona Sweeney
 Systems 3000
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 Dr. Barbara Tomlinson Susan
 Troster
 TRUiST

Tuscana Hair Salon
 The Unitarian Society
 United Methodist Church At New Brunswick
 Freeholder Blanquita Valenti
 Linda Van Derveer
 Venusfest
 Joseph and Robin Vitale
 Theresa Ward
 H. Sherman and Patricia Whipkey
 Nicolette Wilkey
 Women at the Well
 Women's Club at Renaissance Woodbridge
 Academy for Allied Health
 Xi Tau Xi Alumnae Chapter of Central Jersey

Under \$100

Ann Conlon Enterprises
 Anonymous
 Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church
 AWT Environmental Services
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 Marsha Beatty
 Annette Bortone
 Phyllis Boyer
 Carla Jean Boyle
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 Judy Braverman
 Leah Brown and Steven Klein
 Arleen Van Brunt
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 Pheasant Run at Barnegat Homeowners Association
 Pramila Ramteke

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 Semple Solutions
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 Alia Shinbrough
 Kathleen Soto*
 South River National Honor Society
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 Marjorie Strohsahl
 Uma Subramanian
 Robert and Christine Sullivan
 T/A Rainbow / G&J Painting, LLC
 Sara Tagert
 Matthew and Diana Taggart
 Judy Taylor
 Rose Toriello
 Cathy Treiber
 Andrea Troster
 Carlos Valoura
 Diane Vernickas
 Joanne Vitanza
 Stuart Wagner
 John and Anne Wallwork
 Shirley Wanetik
 Georgia Weiner
 Tara Williams
 Talaina Woodridge
 Marla Zirin

Monthly Giving Club

The following individuals have set up a monthly payment to Women Aware allowing them to spread out their total annual donation over the course of the year.

Judith Ambrus
 Christina Burlew
 Edward Cross
 Sheila Fichtner
 Henry and Patricia Hunt
 Maura Kelly
 Patricia Mignella
 Diane Miller
 Linda Van Derveer



*Gift includes a corporate match

Tribute Gifts

Women Aware is honored to be the recipient of the following gifts:

In Honor Of

Judge Marina Corodemus
Amy Eisenstein
Detective Danilo Gallardo
Mary Hutchins
Lisa Kent's Bat Mitzvah
Jane Kurek
Nicole Mack's Bat Mitzvah
Alexandra Mack's Bat Mitzvah
New Brunswick Police Department
Jessica Oppenheim
Diane Palladino and Ellen Koteen,
first directors of the shelter
Mr. and Mrs. Gunter Penzias
Sandy Soriano
Temple B'nai Shalom 2015 B'not Mitzvah class
Joseph Vitale
Stacey Zimmer's Bat Mitzvah

In Memory Of

Mary Compton
Rose Marie Gamble
Leonard Kaplan
Susan E. Merklein
Giorgina Nigro
Mary Rasmussen

Corporate Matching Gift

We gratefully acknowledge support from the following organizations that provided employee matching gifts during 2015.

ADP
Allied World
Cardinal Health Foundation, Inc.
Colgate-Palmolive
Gannett Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
Matching Gifts Program
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
The Prudential Financial Matching Gifts Program
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

In-Kind Gifts

Women Aware received donations of various items, all of which are distributed to our clients.

Phyllis Adams
ADM Corporation
Adult B'not Mitzvah Class of 2015
Melissa Alejo
Suzanne Anderson
Anonymous
Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple
Mike Antoniadis
Kathy Ashton
Aveda - Bridgewater Commons
Jeffrey Axelbank
Bank of America
Barnes & Noble Booksellers (East Brunswick)
Linda Bassett
Bath & Body Works (North Brunswick)
Bath & Body Works (Woodbridge)
Bayard Street Presbyterian Church
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Dianne Scott Bey
Jahe Bloch
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Dawn Canavan
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Cathy and Norm Bauer
Ethel Cehe

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Cole Bros Circus
Crossroads Theatre Company
Cub Scout Pack 53
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Deloitte
Dianne and Angelica Hernandez
Richard Diatlo
Dish Network
Caroline Dorcey
Terry Doremus
Dreams for Kids, Inc.
Nancy Drumright
Jeff Drylewicz
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East Brunswick Woman's Club
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Jewish Women International
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Johnson & Johnson (Customer Service
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Johnson & Johnson Family of
Companies
Catherine Joseph-Emmanuel
Judd Elementary
Susan Kaczmarek
Kristine Kadela
Hannah Kaplenko
Key Food Market
Lubna Khan
Kids Fun Fair and Zoo
Kitchen & Bath Works (North Plainfield)
Barbara Kobe
Koy Turkish Grill
Krantz Dental Care
Lisa Kent
Lee Ann & Richie McNulty
Patricia Leger
Danette Lewis
Priya Lewis
Linwood Middle School

Liquid Church
Livingston School 4th and 5th Graders
Local # 195 Women's Committee
Janise Loell
L'Oreal USA
RaeAnne MacMillian
Karen Manneback
Maria and Will Pough
Patricia Mayer
Edi Mayerson
Christine McGrath
Memorial School Student Council
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Isabel Metrokotsas
Michele and Justin Seavey
Middlesex County Education
Association
Middlesex Regional Black Nurse
Association
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Milltown Senior Center
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New Brunswick Police Department
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New Jersey Division of Disability
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Noreen and Julia Baer
North Brunswick Police Department
North Plainfield High School
Olive Garden (East Brunswick)
ONE at Rutgers

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 Shirley Osipov
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 ShopRite (North Brunswick)
 Langston Simmons
 Sandy Soriano
 South Brunswick Commission on
 Women
 South Brunswick Senior Center
 South River Library
 Gianni Spradley
 St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
 (Monmouth Junction)
 St. Joseph High School
 St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 Michael Steiner
 Anna Stevens
 Stonebridge Hadassah
 Stonebridge Women's Club
 Paula Storm
 Michael Sullivan
 Thomas Sullivan III
 Susan Kaplan
 Kate Sweeney
 Gail Sylvester-Johnson
 T.J. Maxx
 Tanzeela & Asif Qureshi
 Target (North Brunswick)
 Tau Epsilon Phi
 Temple B'nai Shalom
 The Bernards Salon
 The House of the Living God
 The Rutgers Club
 The Scott Family
 The State Theatre
 Mildred Torres
 Mai Anh Tran
 Transforming Cultures Rutgers
 University
 Jane Tublin
 Turner Construction
 TW Metals
 United Methodist Church at Milltown
 United Way of Essex and West
 Hudson
 University Medical Center of
 Princeton at Plainsboro
 Lauren Usan
 Valeant Pharmaceuticals
 Linda Van Derveer
 Fernanda Vello
 Nancy Veduin
 Verizon Wireless
 Verizon Wireless (North Brunswick)

VFW Post 133 East Brunswick
 Ladies Auxiliary
 Victoria's Secret (Woodbridge)
 Jenny and Michael
 Vinogradskyf
 Virginia Worsham Women's
 Missionary Society Mount Zion
 AME Church
 Stuart Wagner
 Walmart (East Brunswick)
 Meena Waran
 Watchung Terrace Senior
 Housing
 Chris Wathen
 Aimee Weber
 William and Patricia
 Whitehouse
 Kathy Wickers
 Williams-Sonoma (South
 Brunswick)
 Woman's Club of Cranbury
 Women's Club at Renaissance
 Kwabera Yamoch
 Patricia Li Zhang
 Stacy Zimmer
 Cindy Zins

Volunteers

We are grateful to members of the community who have given their time and talent to further our mission. The following individuals and groups have provided 1,394 hours of service including childcare, administrative support, pro bono legal advice and facilities improvement.

Charisse Allington
Judith Ambrus
Anonymous
Juanita Ashby
Steven Atkinson
Abby Bakr
Beverly Basham
Scott Basham
Suzanne Bier
Nicole Blankiet
Annette Bortone
Ann Ribinsky Brown
Merriska Brown
Christina Burlew
Colleen Carey
Joan Casarella
Maria Catallo
Aneesha Cheedalla
Abigail Conteh
Edward Cross
Patricia Cummins Martinez
Maria Cygan
Tina Dave
John Decker
Norma Diaz
Nancy Drumright
Marijo Erdeck
Diane Flakker
Matthew Flannery
Jeremy Goldenberg
Angelina Gomez
David Gomez
Ken Gomikawa
Lois Grosvenor
Joseph Del Guercio
Cyndi Guler
Daria Guler
Efraim Guler
Jayda Guler
Chetana Guliana
Angelica Hernandez
Dianne Hernandez
Courtney Hollosi
Linda Hrycenko

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Avanie Kapur
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Uma Kher
Steve Koziczynski
Hugh Kronrot Gene
Krutiansky
Bhupali Kulkarni
Rachel Lester
Mary Lettrick
Vivian Leung
Nicole Lewis
Stan Lorys
Kathy Makowski
Silvia Matos
Patricia Mignella
Nicole Miller
Roland Minard
Roy Minieri
Phyllis Mitchell
Mayra Molina
Kelli Mueller
Keeyana Murray
Music for All Seasons
Adam Neary
Felicia Newkirk
Brian McFadden-Di Nicola, Esq.
Victoria Nicolson
Joan Nixon
Maci Nordone
Jessica Oppenheim
Sabrina Orlando
Marlon Osuna
Hector Pachon
Diane Palmer
William Pape, Esq.
Pratima Patel
Yashavi Patel
Shelley Pedersen
Arianny Peralta
Caroline Perez
Melissa Perry
Shelly Phillips



Bev Brasham and Diane Weiner of Bright Horizons dedicate one of the three creative arts therapy rooms renovated by Brightspaces Foundation.

Christie Pitcherello
Marilyn Puce
Maureen Rice
Epifania Rios
Carol Robinson
Milagros Rodriguez
Tatiana Rodriguez
Patricia Romagna
Margaret Roth
Gregg Rubenstein
Lisa Ryan
Ellen Schwartz
Ann Shamy
Ronald Shand
Nihar Sharma
Nicole Siha
Myrna Sirleaf
Lori Sladic-Olsen
Maryann Sullivan
Sheila Sullivan
Telatha Surujnath
Patricia Thule
Teri Tierney
Norma Torres
Andrea Treadwell
Carly Valentino
Linda Van Derveer
Peter Ventrice, Esq.
Penny Vogt
Lahari Vudayagiri
Diane Weiner
Patricia Whitehouse
Karen Wilkinson
Jennifer Woods
Filomena Yarussi
Cas Zambrzycki
Helen Zanetakos

