

# NEWS

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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[www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org)

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For immediate release  
March 20, 2008  
End date April 18, 2008

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### Deadline for Applying to Leadership Program Nears

Bergen County: The deadline is approaching to apply for the inaugural class of Bergen LEADS, an innovative, 10-month learning and leadership program for adults who live or work in Bergen County.

Men and women from private sector, nonprofit and government agencies and faith communities, as well as community volunteers, are encouraged to complete the user-friendly application form at [www.bergenleads.org](http://www.bergenleads.org) before Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> for a program that will inform and inspire them about what's possible for Bergen County.

Bergen LEADS is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, which has successfully engaged Bergen County residents in community service for more than 40 years. Bergen LEADS carries on that tradition by providing an extraordinarily rich, diverse and interesting program—led by former Bergen County Executive William “Pat” Schuber—focusing on topical issues, leadership and community trusteeship.

“We’re seeking individuals from all ethnic, racial and socio-economic backgrounds who espouse different political, religious and social views,” says Mr. Schuber. “In short, we want our class to represent and celebrate the rich diversity of Bergen County.”

Participants will be selected on the basis of demonstrated interest in the community, achievement in their professions and/or volunteer activities, and potential for responsible and effective leadership. Tuition for the program is \$2000; several

companies, including BD, KPMG, PSE&G, Wachovia and TD Banknorth have generously provided scholarships for those who need financial assistance.

The first Bergen LEADS class begins in September with a day and a half opening retreat. Participants will meet one day each month through the following June to explore and debate topics that include Community, Education, Health, Diversity, Law & Public Safety and Environment. “A typical day will include a keynote speaker followed by dialogue with a panel of individuals involved in that issue. The afternoon will be spent on site visits; on Law and Public Safety day, for example, teams might tour the Bergen County jail, learn to fight fires or make split second decisions at the Police and Fire Academy; or visit United Water’s Haworth plant and reservoir to learn about measures taken to protect the water supply,” says Amanda Missey, Director of Bergen LEADS. “If you think you have what it takes, we invite you to go to [www.bergenleads.org](http://www.bergenleads.org) and submit an application today!”

For additional information about Bergen LEADS, call 201-489-9454. ext. 119, or email [amissey@bergenvolunteers.org](mailto:amissey@bergenvolunteers.org).

The mission of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating model volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

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