

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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Holiday Party Supports Mentoring Moms Program

The holiday spirit moved guests at a recent holiday party hosted by several area businesses, to donate over \$1100 to the Mentoring Moms program of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County in Hackensack.

Dr. Peter and Lisa Gratale owners of 'energy' Chiropractic and Pilates Studio, Liz Pierro, owner of Beau Monde Salon and Spa in Englewood, and Zohair Mamary, owner of Zohair & Co. Hair Salon invited friends and clients to support this mentoring program in which volunteers serve as role models and friends to isolated, overwhelmed mothers in need of guidance in parenting and life skills. The volunteers help the whole family by helping the mothers manage households, secure employment, provide for their children and overcome challenges.

Mr. Michel Bittan donated the room at his Club 201 in Englewood, where guests mingled, danced and took chances on gift baskets, all to raise money for this much needed service. All the hosts agree that the Mentoring Moms program fills an important need. They say, "A mother is the cornerstone of the family. When she is stressed, the children can suffer. We are passionate in our support of such a worthwhile program, and our guests were delighted to help out."

Cindy Andrade, Mentoring Moms Program Director, said, "We are blessed to have friends like those at 'energy', Beau Monde, Zohair and Club 201. We can put the donations to work to provide a respite for the moms and their children, from the difficulties they face in life. We can provide them with education and recreation opportunities that they aren't able to enjoy due to limited resources"

For more information on how to become a mentor or how to support all of the mentoring programs of the Volunteer Center, call (201) 489-9454 or visit www.bergenvolunteers.org.

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County strengthens 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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Dr. Pete Gratale, 'energy' Chiropractic and Pilates Studio; Liz Pierro, Beau Monde Salon and Spa; Michel Bittan, owner, Club 201; Lisa Gratale, "energy; Zahair Mamary, Zohair & Co. Hair Salon