

# NEWS

## **VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.**

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### **Local Residents and Businesspeople First to Join Bergen LEADS**

North Jersey--Members of the inaugural class of Bergen LEADS, a leadership program for adults who live or work in Bergen County, were introduced at a recent reception at Bergen Community College.

Sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, Bergen LEADS is designed to prepare the next generation of leaders to tackle the challenges and embrace the opportunities found in Bergen County.

Beginning in September, the class of 30 men and women, aspiring and acknowledged leaders of widely diverse backgrounds, will meet monthly to dissect issues, debate viewpoints and develop approaches to community problems. Former County executive William "Pat" Schuber is seminar director, with Amanda Missey, director of training and business services at the Volunteer Center, serving as administrative director of Bergen LEADS. Lynne Algrant, a nonprofit management consultant with extensive background in leadership development, is heading that portion of the curriculum.

"Bergen LEADS will help participants see the community – and themselves – through new eyes," says Mr. Schuber. "The curriculum is interactive, fast-paced and experiential. Field trips and site visits built into each seminar day will bring Bergen County to life."

"We are thrilled with the level of commitment and energy that this inaugural class demonstrates. A critical component of Bergen LEADS is developing in participants

a sense of responsibility for the community,” says Amanda Missey, Bergen LEADS Director. “We look forward to see what this class will accomplish. Will they champion a cause? Run for office? Launch a social enterprise venture? Serve on a community board? The sky’s the limit.”

The members of the 2008-2009 Bergen LEADS class are:

Gary M. Albrecht, Esq., partner at Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, PA in Hackensack; Kathleen Bikoff, CFO of Tower Real Estate Holdings in Hackensack; Ria Bloss, Program Supervisor, Bergen Community College, Paramus; Pastor Rae Brown, Potter’s House Ministries in Hackensack; Kimberly Caesar, Major Gifts Officer of the American Red Cross of Northern New Jersey, located in Ridgewood; Eric Cawood, Director at KPMG LLP in Montvale; Tod Christianson, Director at the Hunter Group CPA LLC in Fair Lawn; Mary Connolly, CEO of Gilda’s Club of Northern New Jersey in Hackensack; Donna Corrieri, Director of Public Relation at Bergen Regional Medical Center in Paramus; Liz Corsini, a consultant with the Bergen Family Center and Englewood resident; Dave Dubin, a community volunteer in Haworth; Richard Garcia, Vice President, Lakeland Bank in Teaneck; Marion Gregg-Whited a community volunteer and Teaneck resident; Mark Heard, Customer Operations Supervisor at PSE&G in Hackensack; Mary Hudson, a Tenafly resident with extensive background in the healthcare industry; Oradell resident Laura Kelly, Esq., Partner at McCarter & English LLP in Newark; Paul Koretz, Manager, New Construction Services at Rockland Electric in Saddle River; Tony Luciano, Director, Logistics NY/NJ at Quest Diagnostics in Teterboro; JoAnn Mathews, Principal at Most Blessed Sacrament School in Franklin Lakes; Montvale resident Tanya Mayer, a principal at Towers Perrin in Parsippany; Sanetta Ponton, Executive Director of SonRise Development Corp. in Englewood; Ellen Raffery, Project Coordinator, Social Investing at BD in Franklin Lakes; Teaneck resident Sebastian Rodriguez, Program Officer, NJ After 3 in New Brunswick; Mary Rossettini, President and CEO, Advance Housing, Inc, Hackensack; Tammy Smithers, Asst. Vice President & Relationship Manager, Wachovia Wealth Management in Paramus; Treva Spencer-Dupree, Corporate Recruiter, United Water in Harrington Park; Mike Stern, CEO, Kreisler Manufacturing Corp. in Elmwood Park; Gretchen Viggiano, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together Bergen County in Ridgewood; Helen Wronski, President

and CEO of the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey in Paramus; Talia Young, Director of Constituent Relations and Scheduler, District 37 Legislative Office in Englewood.

Bergen LEADS seeks individuals from all ethnic, racial and socio-economic backgrounds who espouse different political, religious and social views for future classes. Visit [www.bergenleads.org](http://www.bergenleads.org) for more information. Applications for the 2009-2010 class will be due in April 2009.

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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