

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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HACKENSACK NON PROFITS HONORED

Over 285 volunteers from area non-profit agencies were honored recently at the Volunteer Center of Bergen County's **Celebrate Volunteers!** recognition event at the Bergen Academies Auditorium in Hackensack.

Brenda Blackmon, popular news anchor for My 9 TV, hosted this festive, fun and non competitive celebration of the many ways that volunteers enhance life in the community.

Bergen County Freeholders Julie O'Brien and Reverend Vernon Walton and Sheriff Leo McGuire thanked the volunteers for their dedication in making Bergen County a better place in which to live and work

Those present were entertained by the Oradell School Advanced Bell Choir and classic rock and bluegrass band "Route 4 West".

Several Hackensack organizations honored their key volunteers at the event:

Beth Barone, Charles Barone, Michael Grabow, Ruthie Harper, Mary Loeven, Guy Prandstatter, Julia Ruth, Chistene Selleck and Glenn Weber from the **Youth Consultation Service (YCS)**, which provides behavioral health, social and educational services to children and families in need; Daisa Gainey, Ashley Hudley and Ashley Lema of the **Hackensack High School Interact Club**, which is an international youth service organization whose purpose is to enable high school students to participate in service and leadership activities: Gillian Eigo, Kathleen Carpenter, Georgene Sfraga-Panza, Rumiko Suzuki, Michele Horowitz, Sheila Bernstein, Rosemarie Wenick, Kenya Barnes, Dae Hee Ahn, Jessica Wang, Graciela Tineo, Claudia Montes, Carol Harmon, Phoebe Stein, and

Janiene Thiong of **Shelter Our Sisters**, a shelter for victims of family violence; Tom Kaechele, Daniel Levine, Jai Minotti, Darlene Minko, Andrew Fusco and Lloyd Ocampo from the **YMCA of Greater Bergen County**, which offers a variety of programs for people of all ages. Norma Breit, Sarabjit Cheema, Mary Elcock, Lolita Martir, Jesus Martir, and Carmen Sierra of the **Bergen County Sheriff's Office**, are volunteer concierges at the Bergen County Justice Center. Jack Buccino, Michelle Castroagudin, Joyce Chookazian, Debra DiPippo, Carmen Getter, Gerald Leen and Brian Leen were recognized by the **Cheer Program of the Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service**, which provides in-home assistance and support that allows homebound senior citizens to live safe and independently in their homes. Janice Bihler, Karen Curlo, Suzanne Ryer and Stephany Stefani of **Project Literacy**, whose mission is to increase the level of public consciousness about the issue of adult literacy. **The Rotary Club of Hackensack**, which supports the community with both financial and hands-on volunteer assistance, honored Cheri Laser, Sharon Bregman, Stephanie Cirigliano, Gar Hipp, Nelson Louis and Amanda Missey.

Volunteers from several programs sponsored by the **Volunteer Center of Bergen County** were also honored. Established in 1966, the mission of the Volunteer Center 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.

Ola George, Kim Kruegel, Donna Prendergast, Joyce Baynes and Jacqueline Pendleton of the **Mentoring Moms Program of the Volunteer Center**, whose volunteers are mentors and role models to overwhelmed mothers in need of guidance in parenting and life skills; Susan Byrne, Solange Griffith-Ruff and John McAvinue of the **Volunteers in Protective Services (VIPS) Mentoring Program of the Volunteer Center**, whose mentors are friends and role models to children who have experienced abuse, neglect, trouble or isolation; Emmette Cusberth, Linda Gould, Gary Leibe, Margo Jensen and Rebecca Linzer from the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of the Volunteer Center**, which is a nation-wide program engaging seniors age 55 and older in meaningful volunteer service; **The Nonprofit Resource Center of the Volunteer Center** honored volunteer trainer Becky Livingston, for helping non profit agencies

develop their communication plans and strategies; **The Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council**, which provides provides leadership in meeting community needs through mobilization of employee volunteers, honored its co-chairs Adrienne Zuendt and Sonja Clark; Dennis Sacco, Corry DeMarco, Jeffrey Mueller, Sharyn Banks, Jim Scaglione and Nick Scaglione were honored from **Volunteer Ventures of the Volunteer Center**, a program that provides busy individuals with evening and weekend volunteer projects;

For further information about volunteering, call (201) 489-9454 or visit the Volunteer Center of Bergen County's website at www.bergenvolunteers.org.

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