

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

64 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 Phone: 201-489-9454 Fax: 201-489-1995
www.bergenvolunteers.org

For immediate release
January 19, 2009

Contact: Maureen McCormick
201-489-9454 Ext. 126

Volunteer Center Thanks Holiday Helpers

North Jersey-- The Volunteer Center of Bergen County extends a big “thank you” to the many people who stepped up to help others during the holiday season just passed.

Through its “All Wrapped Up” holiday giving program, 791 donors from the community provided gifts or gift cards to nearly 3,500 people, including 700 individuals (mostly seniors and people with disabilities) and 700 families. Altogether, more than \$300,000 was donated and distributed through the Volunteer Center’s annual program.

“That so many people stepped forward to help others in this economy is a tribute to the generosity of our community,” says Janet Sharma, executive director of the Volunteer Center. “With so many people struggling financially, we were afraid that many of the requests we had received would remain unfulfilled. The end result was resoundingly positive.”

Every fall the Volunteer Center asks nonprofit agencies to submit profiles and gift “wish list” requests from their families and individuals who are most in need of assistance. The Center then matches these requests with volunteer donors from the community who offer to shop or provide gift cards.

Over the past five years, more than \$1.5 million has been distributed through the All Wrapped Up program.

“While the holidays are over, the needs of increasing numbers of people for help continue,” continues Mrs. Sharma. “We encourage people to volunteer to help others and to donate generously to agencies that assist those in need.”

“The devastation in Haiti deserves as much support as possible,” she continued.
“At the same time, we can’t forget those in need in our own back yard.”

To volunteer, call the Center at 201-489-9454, or check volunteer opportunities online at www.bergenvolunteers.org

Founded by the Junior League in 1966, 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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