

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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Volunteer Center of Bergen County Provides Benefits for Many Needs Support for Derby Day Fund Raiser

BERGEN COUNTY – One of the area’s best-known spring garden parties, centered on the Kentucky Derby, is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm at a beautiful private home in Alpine, New Jersey.

Funds raised at this event will support the work of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, which for 42 years has strengthened 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.

Its important work includes the following activities:

- Two **Mentoring Programs** are helping more than 100 abused or neglected children and over 50 overwhelmed mothers see and take steps to achieve a brighter future.
- The **Chore Volunteer Handyman Service** is keeping more than 1,500 seniors safe in their own homes.
- **Bergen LEADS**, with monthly seminars led by former County Executive William “Pat” Schuber, is developing a new generation of community leaders schooled in issues of critical importance to Bergen County.
- The **Business Volunteer Council** sponsors initiatives that benefit children and families in need.

- The **All Wrapped Up** holiday giving program generated well over \$440,000 in resources for people in need during the recent holiday season (\$33,000 more than last year).
- An expanded roster of **Trainings** is helping nonprofits increase their management capacity, and the **Neighbor Academy** is helping small, grassroots groups get organized.
- The **2009 Guide to Volunteering** and the searchable online database link thousands of prospective volunteers with 1,100 volunteer jobs at over 330 agencies
- The **youth service activities** are helping students, schools and groups become engaged in the community.

The stories of the volunteers and programs of the Volunteer Center are ones of commitment, caring and selfless giving. The stories of the recipients of these acts of kindness are ones of hope, love and gratitude.

“A movement growing is growing out of the current economic climate, an interest in civic engagement, an appetite by Americans to pull together to help their neighbors,” says Janet Sharma, the Volunteer Center’s executive director. “We are uniquely positioned to play an important role in shaping President Obama’s call to service, and how Bergen County residents respond to needs in our community.”

The Volunteer Center’s 17th annual Derby Day party promises a winning combination of savory southern food, authentic mint juleps, wine tasting, great music, raffles, auctions and of course, the viewing of the Kentucky Derby. Guests are encouraged to dress in festive, casual-elegant attire. In the spirit of the Kentucky Derby, awards will be given for the “Most Elegant Hat” for the ladies and “Most Outrageous Tie” for the gentlemen. The event is sponsored by Reader's Digest Association, Inserra Supermarkets, J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Stryker Orthopaedics, Oritani Bank Charitable Foundation, 201 Magazine, Bergen Health & Life and numerous benefactors of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County

Tickets are \$100 per person. To make reservations, to inquire about corporate sponsorship, or for further information, call (201) 489-9454 or visit www.bergenvolunteers.org and click on the Derby Day icon.