



# 2025 Impact Report



**60** YEARS OF  
COMMUNITY  
IMPACT

# A Message from our CEO & Board President

This year marks an extraordinary milestone for **Bergen Volunteers: 60 years of service, compassion, and community impact.**

For six decades, Bergen Volunteers has stood at the intersection of need and generosity, bringing caring individuals together with neighbors who need support in Bergen County. What began as a simple but powerful idea—that volunteers can transform lives—has grown into a network of programs and partnerships that strengthens our community every single day.

We are proud of the legacy built by generations of volunteers, donors, staff, and community leaders who believed in the power of service. Their dedication laid the foundation for the work we carry forward today.

In 2025, **Bergen Volunteers mobilized 25,000 hours of volunteer service** to make a meaningful difference in **more than 8,000 lives across Bergen County.** Every volunteer hour highlighted in this report reflects dedication in action—someone rising early for a CHORE assignment, a mentor driving miles to meet with a struggling teen, and many others choosing to give their time in service to our community.

Because of this commitment, a child is supported in school, an older adult remains safe in their home, an individual is connected to resources during a challenging time, and a nonprofit partner is strengthened by the time and talent of volunteers. These stories are the true measure of our impact.

 **BERGENVOLUNTEERS**



**YEARS OF  
COMMUNITY IMPACT**

**As we celebrate 60 years, we also look ahead.** The needs in our community are changing. Economic pressures, social isolation, educational gaps, and workforce challenges demand innovative thinking and collaborative action. Our responsibility—and our opportunity—is to ensure Bergen Volunteers remains a strong, adaptive, and compassionate force for good for the next 60 years and beyond.

This 2025 Impact Report reflects the extraordinary dedication of those who give their time and talent in service to others. To every volunteer who showed up, every partner who collaborated, every donor who invested in our mission, and every client: **thank you for your trust and belief in us.**



**Shara Nadler, MPA**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Paul Coller**  
Board President

# Celebrating 60 Years of Community Impact

## Providing human service and training programs to improve lives and strengthen communities.

Bergen Volunteers has been an integral part of our community for six decades, offering a wealth of programs and services throughout Bergen County.

Our volunteer-driven, direct-assistance programs support **vulnerable seniors, at-risk youth, and low-income families and individuals.** We offer **leadership development and civic engagement training** to local teens and rising professionals. We engage **individuals and businesses** with networking and local community service opportunities.

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# Programming

## CHORE

Provides minor home repairs and safety upgrades for seniors and residents with disabilities. Skilled volunteers do light plumbing; replace light switches and outlets; and install grab bars, indoor railings, doorbells, locks, smoke alarms, and more. They offer seasonal installation and removal of window AC units.

- 1,323 Seniors Assisted
- 42 Volunteers
- 9,945 Hours of Service



## Shirvan Family Senior Safety Initiative

The Amy & Mark Shirvan Family Senior Safety Initiative (AMSFSSI) is dedicated to identifying safety risks in the homes of older adults and ensuring they can continue living independently with confidence. Through comprehensive home safety evaluations, AMSFSSI helps seniors reduce hazards, prevent falls, and feel more secure in their everyday environments.

- 100 Seniors Assisted
- 20 Volunteers
- 100 Hours of Service



# Programming

## CHEER

Many of our community's seniors experience loneliness and are isolated in their homes without support. The CHEER program matches caring volunteers with these seniors to offer meaningful social interaction, as well as assistance with errands, grocery shopping, and prescription pick-up.

- 109 Seniors Assisted
- 100 Volunteers
- 5,746 Hours of Service



## Mentoring

The Mentoring program enlists, trains, matches, and supports volunteers to respond to the specific needs of youth, families, first-generation college students, and caregivers in our community. Compassionate mentors help their mentees focus on achieving goals, navigate challenging times, build confidence and self-esteem, and learn about available resources.

- 38 Mentees Assisted
- 36 Mentors
- 1,104 Hours of Service



# Programming

## Bergen READS



We partner with local Title 1 schools and our volunteers work 1:1 with selected students to improve literacy skills and achieve academic success. The program encourages critical thinking, develops confidence, and builds vocabulary.

- 167 Children Assisted
- 66 Volunteers
- 2,696 Hours of Service

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

VITA is an IRS-certified program that provides free tax preparation assistance to low-to-moderate income individuals and families, those with disabilities, seniors, and English language learners.



- 525 Tax Returns Filed
- \$124k in State Refunds
- \$620k in Federal Refunds

## Redefining Retirement



For retirees seeking a way to make a difference in their community, this program is a valuable resource. Its liaisons work with nonprofit partners to identify areas of need and connect them with local retirees who have the skill set and past experiences that are required.

- 5 Program Liaisons
- 87 Placements in Volunteer Roles
- 15 Information Sessions

# Programming

## Bergen LEADS

Bergen LEADS is a leadership program for professionals living or working in Bergen County. Participants learn about local issues from community leaders, receive expert executive training, and gain insider access to the public and private sectors. Graduates emerge as civically engaged stakeholders ready to shape the county's future.

- 21 Cohort Members in Class of 2025-2026
- 10 Sessions of Site Visits, Workshops, and Discussion Panels
- Almost 500 Program Alumni



## Teen LEADS

Teen LEADS is a summer leadership and civic engagement program for area teens that is offered as two week-long sessions. Teens visit different host sites each day at local businesses, colleges, and nonprofits. They learn from elected officials and professionals in interactive sessions, covering topics including goal setting, community advocacy, and communication.

Building on our 2025 summer success, we launched the Teen LEADS Council to keep teens engaged in leadership development and the spirit of giving back year-round.

- 29 Teens Participated in 2025
- More than 50% Continued in the New Teen LEADS Council



# Community Partnerships

## Corporate Impact Projects

Our Corporate Impact Project team connects local businesses with meaningful volunteer opportunities.

By matching a company's philanthropic goals with community needs, we make it easy for businesses to create a positive social impact. Whether through event sponsorships or purpose-driven employee engagement, our most successful collaborations come from aligning shared goals with the company's brand.

- 7 Projects
- 700 Care Kits Assembled and Distributed
- 114 Volunteers



## Agency Membership

Agency membership is designed to empower partner nonprofit organizations with resources, visibility, and support to drive meaningful change.

Among the valuable membership benefits is the Get Connected Database, which allows nonprofits to post unlimited volunteer opportunities and connect easily with volunteers. Additional support with marketing, social media, recruiting, and networking is also available.

- 37 Partner Agency Members
- 149 Opportunities to Volunteer Posted
- 142,207 Database Views from Potential Volunteers

# Training Workshops

In 2025, we added new training workshops for seniors, volunteers, and caregivers in Bergen County that were held throughout the year. Workshop topics included protecting seniors from bank fraud and safety tips for aging adults.



# Community Impact Events

Care. Compassion. Connection. Our impact events empower volunteers to put these values into action. In 2025, our inaugural holiday event—Neighbors Helping Neighbors—brought together over 400 volunteers to assemble 2500 essential care items for our neighbors in need. We were supported by 19 corporate sponsors and 12 family sponsors.



# Fundraising Events

In 2025, Bergen Volunteers hosted two standout fundraisers that energized our community. Our spring event, **Keys for a Cause**, welcomed 100+ guests at Montammy Golf Club for an evening of lively music and mission-focused impact.

Highlights included the unveiling of the Amy & Mark Shirvan Family Senior Safety Initiative, the honoring of our corporate partner, UNITS NNJ, and a successful night of fundraising to support our core programs.

Our **2nd Annual 2025 Paddles & Prosecco** night was literally a smash hit! The sold-out event united players of all backgrounds to battle it out on the courts for a great cause.

When they weren't competing, guests gathered in the lounge to learn more about our community impact, enjoying great food and great company.



# Financial Summary

In 2025, Bergen Volunteers, like many nonprofit organizations, was impacted by reductions in government funding. We invested in our ability to diversify our funding portfolio to ensure our vital programs are sustainable.

## Our Functional Expenses:

- 60% Programmatic
- 32% Fundraising
- 8% Administrative

## Our Sources of Funding:

- 31% Government ( ↓ -38% vs. 2024)
- 22% Foundations ( ↑ +100% vs. 2024)
- 20% General Donations ( ↑ +18% vs. 2024)
- 19% Corporate/Misc. ( ↑ +12% vs. 2024)
- 8% Fee for Service ( ↑ +60% vs. 2024)

**To meet needs in the community**, we need community support. We leaned into this approach and our family of supporters and partners responded. The next few pages highlight those who made it possible for Bergen Volunteers to continue and enhance our programming. We are grateful!

## Heart to Heart: Words from Our Community

“Two angels came to my door from Bergen Volunteers’ CHORE program. As soon as they saw what the problem was, they went to work. They did an excellent job in helping me with my problem. I am so proud of the work that CHORE does for people like me. God Bless You, CHORE.” — Senior Program Client

“I would like to commend the volunteers who prepared my 2025 tax return. Everyone was very helpful and knowledgeable and put me at ease. I have been utilizing this VITA program for the past few years and have always been completely satisfied. This is a really helpful program that I look forward to using every year. Thanks again for helping out this senior. Keep up the great work.” — VITA Client

# Foundation & Corporate Donors

## Power of Volunteers \$25,000+

The Achelis and Bodman Foundation  
Henry & Marilyn Taub Foundation  
Lillian Pitkin Schenck Fund

## Agent for Change \$10,000-\$24,999

Alfiero and Lucia Palestroni Foundation Inc.  
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\* Denotes In-Kind Support

† Denotes both Monetary and In-Kind Support

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"We applaud what you and Bergen Volunteers are doing for us and our County neighbors." — Bernard Milano & Dr. Sharon Pierson

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\* Denotes In-Kind Support † Denotes both Monetary and In-Kind Support

Every effort was made to ensure that our donor listing is accurate and complete. If your name does not appear or is listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies. Kindly call us at 201-489-9454, ext. 251, so that we may update our records.

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