

it doesn't get more local



Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
creating healthy & safe communities

Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

2014 Municipal Alliance Volunteers of the Year



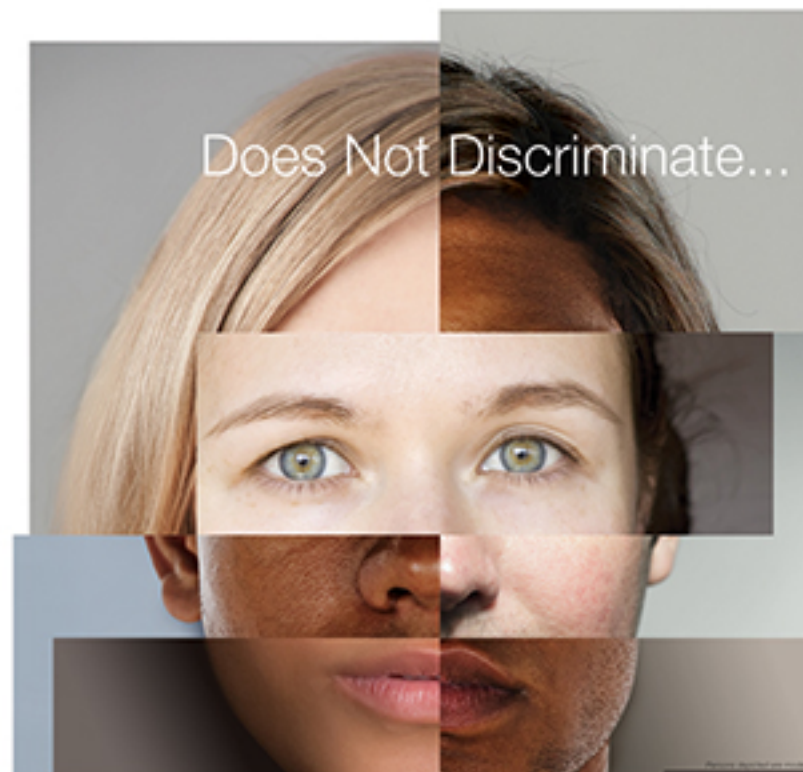
W. Cary Edwards Statewide Volunteer of the Year

Kathy Andrejco
Freehold Municipal Alliance
Monmouth County

Kathy Andrejco has been a vital part of the Freehold Municipal Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse for 27 years. She currently runs our Youth & Education Subcommittee. She is a student assistance counselor and coordinator at the Freehold Township High School. She holds a bachelor's degree from Rowan University as well as two master's degrees from Rutgers University and Georgian Court University.

Kathy has organized many different support groups in the Freehold Township High School which include: drug & alcohol education group, tobacco education, conflict resolution/practicing self control, coping with family members who are involved in drugs or alcohol and teenage relationship groups. She used to be a part of the ADAPT club and still helps with the SADD organization within the school. She has also played an integral part in organizing various parent workshops.

Addiction



Your *medicine cabinet* could be a *gateway* to *heroin*.

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**Augustus Harmon, City Councilman
Pleasantville Municipal Alliance
Atlantic County**

Mr. Augustus Harmon is an individual who is extremely proud of his hometown Pleasantville, NJ. He has served on the Pleasantville Municipal Alliance as a volunteer for many years as he currently also serves on the Alliance Executive Committee as well. Mr. Harmon is the "go to" person for insight and advice on how to properly deal with uprising issues. He volunteers his time throughout the City in many areas such as National Night Out, Winter Wonderland, PEPP (Pleasantville Envisions Pride & Prosperity), Boy Scouts, etc. In conclusion, Mr. Harmon for 41 years has stayed close to his dear City and has strived to make his community proud. We as the Pleasantville Municipal Alliance are more than elated to nominate Councilman Augustus Harmon as the recipient of the "Volunteer of the Year award.



**Carolyn Blake
Mahwah Municipal Alliance
Bergen County**

Carolyn Blake has lived in Mahwah for the past 20 years and has been a member of the Mahwah Municipal Alliance since 2004 and a member of the Mahwah Municipal Alliance Board of Directors since 2006. She is actively involved in Mahwah's youth sports program including serving as Program Administrator for the Youth Lacrosse Program. In addition Ms. Blake has been an Executive HSO member for the Ramapo Ridge Middle School and Joyce Kilmer School in Mahwah. She is a graduate of Ramapo College and earned her MBA from Manhattan College. Professionally Ms. Blake is currently the Business Development Manager for CASME Market Focus and she has held various management and sales positions at Hewlett Packard, IBM, Johnson & Johnson and Dowden Custom Media. She has also served as an adjunct professor teaching courses in marketing and sales management at Ramapo College, Manhattan College, and Berkeley. Ms. Blake resides with her husband, Bruce, and their three children, two daughters and a son.



**Mary Ellen McCloy
Tabernacle Municipal Alliance
Burlington County**

Mary Ellen McCloy served on as the Municipal Alliance Secretary for 24 years. Her other involvement includes serving on Tabernacle PTA for 24 years, Jump Rope for Heart registration Chairperson for 22 years, past Woman's Association President, Cub Scout leader for 9 years, Tabernacle Education Association Executive Board, and Secretary for Nu chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a woman educators service organization.



**Captain Michael Valvardi
Haddon Heights Municipal Alliance
Camden County**

Michael has been with the Haddon Heights Police Department for 18 years, and with the Municipal Alliance program for 10 years. Michael has held the positions of Alliance Chair, Treasurer and Coordinator. He's been the backbone of the Alliance and has been an invaluable asset to the Municipal Alliance Program. He has coordinated our Municipal Alliance 5K firecracker Run, worked with the Haddon Heights High School to help organize the annual Three on Three Basketball Tournaments, Open Gyms, and Pre-prom Mock Crashes. Michael has been responsible for completing all of our quarterly and annual reports along with the grant paperwork. All of the work that he does for the Alliance is on his own time and that is why the Haddon Heights Municipal Alliance Committee thinks that Michael is a perfect Volunteer of the Year.



**Lisa Rumer
Upper Township and Ocean City Municipal Alliance
Cape May County**

Lisa has spent her career in the public service sector. For the past 22 years, she has worked as a Program Supervisor at the Ocean City Community Center. This year Lisa began a more active role with the Upper Township & Ocean City Municipal Alliance Committee. Lisa led the development of a program for area teens that offered a variety of fun, drug and alcohol free activities called "Fridays with Friends." This program welcomed teens to a safe and comfortable environment while giving them opportunities to dance, play ping pong, take fitness classes, swim, converse near a bonfire... just to name a few of the fun activities planned and implemented by Lisa and her team. As a lifelong Ocean City resident and a mother of a teenager herself, Lisa is eager to grow these programs further to help teens make positive, safe choices and enjoy themselves while doing so.



Vicki Vagnarelli
Bridgeton Municipal Alliance
Cumberland County

Vicki Vagnarelli has been an active member of the Bridgeton Municipal Alliance for over 10 years. Vicki's commitment to prevention and relentless efforts to achieve the goals of this Cumberland County Alliance consortium is a motivating factor to the volunteers. She maintains a positive attitude despite the unique challenges faced by an Alliance program comprised of seven municipalities. She is inventive in generating participation and motivates others by example with her generous commitment of her time as a volunteer. Vicki's boundless energy is an inspiration to all the Alliance volunteers. Her diligence, unselfish work ethic and commitment to the cause of prevention are unparalleled.



Nancy Lynn
Millburn Municipal Alliance Committee
Essex County

Nancy Lynn has been a passionate, active and vocal participant of the Millburn Municipal Alliance Committee for 6 years now. She has taken a leadership role in bringing parenting tools and the 40 Developmental Assets from the Search Institute and integrating them in with our vision for the safe homes program in town. She has created a SAFE HOMES presentation and presented it at our 5th grade TGIF dare family celebration in June. Additionally for two years now she has presented to parents of incoming freshman about the importance of setting boundaries and expectations during the transition to High School. This is her greatest accomplishment for our Alliance to gain access to this group and to share our important message. For these reasons and many more, it is our honor to recommend Nancy Lynn to receive the Volunteer of the year Award for 2014.



Lisa B. Rovito
Weehawken Municipal Alliance
Hudson County

Lisa is a long time Weehawken resident and volunteer coordinator of the Weehawken Municipal Alliance since its inception in 1990. She has also served as a Member of the Weehawken Elks for over 11 years, serving as the Elks' chairperson for drug and alcohol awareness and as the chairperson for their scholarship program. Lisa worked for over 23 years in the substance abuse field as an individual and group counselor. The last 13 years were at Beth Israel and prior to that she worked with the courts. She has her masters in counseling psychology from Columbia University and her CSAC certification. She is now a substitute teacher for the Weehawken Schools.



Michael J. Arons
West Windsor/Plainsboro Municipal Alliance
Mercer County

Michael has been involved with the West Windsor-Plainsboro Municipal Alliance since March 2014. He also worked for the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services as a social worker and joined the Princeton Elks Lodge 1979, serving as an officer for over 30 years including Exalted Ruler. Michael served as Lodge Chairman and District Chairs of the Alcohol and Prevention Program through the Elks since 2003. He is also a member of the Montgomery and Hillsborough Municipal Alliances for over 20 years.



Twyla Paige
North Brunswick Municipal Alliance
Middlesex County

Twyla Paige began her public health career with the Middlesex County Office of Health Services over 12 years ago. As a health educator, Twyla enjoys the opportunity to work with diverse population groups in various settings such as schools, senior centers, preschools, and community organizations. She has been trained and certified to facilitate and implement a variety of national prevention and evidence based curricula and is committed personally and professionally to many community partnerships and efforts. Most recently, Twyla was appointed as Chairperson of the Municipal Alliance Committee in North Brunswick Township, a local planning body that sets priorities, develops plans, and implements substance abuse prevention activities in the community.



Annelise Catanzaro
Parsippany Municipal Alliance
Morris County

Annelise joined the Parsippany Municipal Alliance and has been its chair since May 2008. She has worked hard to prevent alcohol and drug abuse in Parsippany by organizing meetings and programs with the schools, police force and community. Annelise was in constant communication with leaders from these important groups to plan valuable programs for the community. Some events Annelise was instrumental in include a mentoring program with high school students helping to improve elementary students' self-image; after school extension programs in which teachers tutor students in after school programs to provide help in academic or behavioral areas; parent skills workshops designed to help parents with students at the elementary and middle school talk and listen to their children; a fifth grade bridging program at both middle schools that allows students to participate in middle school activities and meet peer leaders prior to their moving up; and Project Graduation which provides a drug and alcohol-free environment for students following graduation.



Reverend Theresa Nance
Passaic Municipal Alliance
Passaic County

Rev. Theresa Nance is a native daughter of the city of Passaic and has been a pastor since 1995. She is a former coordinator of a mentoring program for the Passaic school district. The mentoring program was titled, JUMPY (Juvenile Urban Mentoring Program for Youths), where an adult and a student from the middle and high schools were matched for a year with the hope that a mutual bonding would take place and at the end of the year-long endeavor, the student's grades and attitude would improve. She is also a columnist for a monthly publication titled, "The Positive Community Magazine" and is a radio talk show host Fridays on WKMB AM, where topical issues are discussed to find alternative routes to bring about an enhanced lifestyle for families residing in urban centers.



Melissa (Missi) Jones
Carney's Point/Penns Grove Municipal Alliance
Salem County

Missi Jones has served on the Carney's Point/Penns Grove municipal Alliance for several years as a member, secretary and currently as vice chair. Ms. Jones has strong community ties and her commitment to the community is evidenced by her active involvement with the municipal Alliance program. She serves as a mentor to Alliance volunteers and actively recruits community members to participate in the various prevention programs sponsored by the Alliance. Missi is an active volunteer with the Police Explorers and has utilized the explorers for various community events she helps organize such as Family Night and National Night Out. Ms. Jones' tireless efforts to expand and improve these community events make her truly deserving of this recognition.



Jeanette Spooner
Ogdensburg Municipal Alliance
Sussex County

Jeanette Spooner is currently the Physical Education and health teacher at the Borough of Ogdensburg grammar school, she has taught there since September of 2011. Her duties also include being the athletic coordinator which includes scheduling games, transportation, and referees and maintaining the sports facilities for home games and events. She also coaches the girls' soccer team for High Point Regional High School and runs numerous summer soccer camps through her company Next Level Soccer. Jeanette is also the trainer for the Wallkill Valley Travel Soccer League. Shortly after coming to the Ogdensburg school district, she got involved with the Ogdensburg PTO and the Ogdensburg Municipal Alliance Committee where she started the Teen Canteen program.



Dave Chango
New Providence Municipal Alliance
Union County

Dave Chango has worked with the New Providence municipal Alliance for five years. He takes an active leadership role in the Alliance, vetting new program initiatives, coordinating with the district and schools as well as ensuring that all events are implemented seamlessly. Dave took charge of the planning and execution of the Alliance's Every 15 Minutes and Safety Bug programs, which involved up to 100 hours of his time. As a student assistance counselor, Dave is the Alliance's liaison with the schools. He is committed to helping steer students down the right path. Mr. Chango was instrumental in bringing the STEPS program to the high school. He was also instrumental in conducting the needs assessment for the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan.