



DCF NEWSLETTER

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New Jersey Division on Women Celebrates 45 Years of Service



Anna Martinez
Acting Director, Division on Women

In 1974, the New Jersey Division on Women (DOW) was established as a pioneering state agency for women's advocacy throughout the state.

DOW's mission is to create, promote and expand the rights and opportunities for all women and support the development,

coordination and evaluation of programs and services that empower women and families in New Jersey. [Watch Video](#)

NJ DCF Celebrates Kinship Awareness Month in September



September was Kinship Awareness Month. The DCF's new strategic plan includes a transformative goal to preserve and expand kinship connections for NJ's youth in care. Studies show that when youth must be placed out-of-home care, kinship caregivers help keep them better connected to their family, their culture and their community. Kin ease

the transition by reducing trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). To advance these efforts, every DCF division and unit has submitted Objectives and Key Results proposals to increase and/or support kinship connections and placements. DCPD has also launched a pilot program in the four Monmouth and Ocean County Local Offices. Staff is eager to track progress in this important area.

DCF Division of Family and Community Partnerships Visits Brick Township High School



DCF Assistant Commissioner of Family and Community Partnerships, Niuca Louis, toured the Brick Township High School to acknowledge significant strides the School Based Youth Services Program has made to help youth and families of New Jersey. DCF School Based Youth Services include: mental health

counseling, substance abuse education and reproductive health awareness – issues that can contribute to tweens and teens stress and anxiety, if left unaddressed.

Featured in the photo from left to right: Bill Kleissler (Principal-BTHS), Dave Seegert (SBYSP Director -PBH), Niuca Louis (Assistant Commissioner-DCF), Mary Pat Angelini (CEO-PBHG), Tara Chalaakani (VP-PBHG).

IN THE NEWS

Governor Murphy Announces Recommendations from the Electronic Smoking Device Task Force. [Read More...](#)

New Jersey Works to Reduce Youth Suicide [Read More...](#)

Increase in Childcare Voucher Amounts Help Families [Read More...](#)

Expanded Pre-K Benefits Kids' Social and Emotional Learning [Read More...](#)

DCF School Based Youth Services Program: "Prevention is Key to Saving Young Lives" [Read More...](#)

Kids On Medicaid Who Start ADHD Drugs Are Getting Good Follow-Up Care in NJ [Read More...](#)

Dental Students' Mandatory Special Needs Training is Significant [Read More...](#)



Honoring Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ocean and Monmouth County staff recognizing Women's Breast Cancer Awareness Month during the Ocean County Quality Review.

#NJFathersMatter



Last month, DCF asked its dads to share photos of them with their children doing 'everyday' things that highlight the importance of active, engaged fathers. We got plenty and were thrilled to create and share an album on social media. [Check out](#) some of DCF's dads and celebrate the dads or father-like figures in your life!

School Based Youth Services - Male Role Model Initiative



Pinelands School Based Youth Services Program held its 4th annual male role model initiative with a little over 100 participants for breakfast and conversation around the importance of adult male role models in the lives of our youth. Adult and youth were given conversation cards to encourage dialogue and fun.

Featured Child: Fred



Energetic, empathetic, kind, helpful and great manners are a few of the fantastic qualities you will find in Fred. Fred enjoys being active and is an avid sports lover. He has participated in Special Olympics for the past 2 summers, competing in bowling, track and baseball. He enjoys playing baseball and rooting for his favorite team, the Phillies. He also enjoys football and is a great armchair quarterback while watching his team, the Eagles. Activities that intrigue him involve taking things apart and putting them back together including arts and crafts and building things such as cars. Fred gets along well with other children and likes animals.

A good home for him would be able to support keeping him active, in addition to providing structure, love and attention. If you are interested in learning more about Fred please contact his exchange specialist, Kenyatta Johnson 609-888-7487 or kenyatta.johnson@dcf.nj.gov

Mercer Backpack Drive



Earlier this month, the Mercer North and Mercer South local offices and the DCF Central Office teamed up with local government, business and philanthropic organizations to host a backpack drive for area children preparing to go back to school. All told, more than 350 backpacks were collected to support Mercer County's students.

Thanks to everyone who donated and who work every day to keep New Jersey residents safe, healthy and connected. Special thanks to Mercer North Resource Development Specialist Sheray Morrison and Mercer South Resource Development Specialist Joe Goss for all their hard work on the backpack drive.

In the photo pictured with DCF Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer is Hunterdon/Mercer/Somerset/Warren Area Director, Naomi Louissaint-Grant and Assistant Area Director, Adela Lopez.



#NJStandUp2DV

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS 2019

DCF's Domestic Violence Awareness Month video is about who, why, and how DCF stands up to domestic violence. You can watch the video on social media. Commissioner Beyer asks New Jersey residents to make their own statement on social media against domestic violence.

[Watch Video](#)

Show us how you [#NJStandUp2DV](#) by posting your video and tagging us [@NewJerseyDCF](#)



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