



AMERICORPS NEW JERSEY BULLETIN

November 2022



Pictured, JRF Founder, Dr. Alan Goldsmith (center); CEO Deborah Robinson (left) with Foundation staff. AmeriCorps program staff: Grace Co-Ortega (fourth from right), and Tawayna Bailey (second from right).

Jewish Renaissance Foundation Hosts 11th Gala

On Wednesday, October 19th, Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF), founded by Dr. Alan Goldsmith in 1996, hosted its 11th annual Gala at the Park Chateau Estate & Gardens. This year they honored two outstanding humanitarians Joseph W. Manger, CEO of Aetna Better Health of N.J., and William F. DiStanislao, VP of Hackensack Meridian Health Care.

Guests enjoyed a wonderful evening which included a special live performance from the cast of Broadway's *Ain't Too Proud to Beg - The Life and Times of the Temptations*, which played its final Broadway production earlier this year.

The gala was a remarkable success recognizing all attendees and benefactors who share in the JRF's commitment to helping individuals and families become healthier and stronger. The Chief Executive Officer, Deborah A. Robinson, is looking forward to wonderful things in the future as well and creating and nurturing new and long-standing relationships with health care providers, health and wellness initiatives, community action partnerships and school-based mentorship programs.



MEET MIKE

MIKE PULSINELLI

Chair, NJ Commission on National and Community Service

Michael Pulsinelli is a native of Washington Township, Warren County, New Jersey. He graduated from Warren Hills Regional High School, Washington, New Jersey in 1977.

In 1980, Mike began his career as an Apprentice with Local 581 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). He completed a four-year apprenticeship and performed on numerous jobs as journeyman, foreman, and shop steward. Mike also served on the IBEW Local Union 581 Executive Board.

In 1993 Local 102, 367 and 581 amalgamated and Mike served on the Pension and Annuity Fund as Trustee for 10 years and currently is an active participant on the Committee as a Business Agent. Mike also has served on the Joint Apprentice and Training Committee (JATC) for 10 years and is still active. He is head of the Safety Committee for Local 102 and a certified OSHA 5600 Trainer, 40 Hour Hazardous Waste, United States Department of Labor National Mine Health & Safety Trainer, and a representative for New Jersey State Safety Council Expo. He has received an endorsement from National Safety Council Labor Award presented by International President of IBEW, Mr. Edwin D. Hill.

Mike has two children, Rebecca and Michael, and one grandchild. He loves spending time outdoors. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and boating.



Nearly 100 members participated in NJ VOAD's Volunteerism Conference on October 19, 2022. Thank you to all those who participated. For those who have registered, recordings of the conference sessions are available until the end of January.



JRF GALA 2022



The JRF community health center staff and CEO Deborah Robinson (second to left).



Board members, Jorge Cruz, Antonia Ricigliano, Ivonne Cruz (wife of Jorge Cruz), Jaime Rivello, JRF Chief Compliance Officer and AmeriCorps alum, and Reginald Gaines, JRF board member and AmeriCorps alum.



The JRF CEO Deborah Robinson (left) with JRF Staff. Jamie Rivello, JRF Chief Compliance Officer and AmeriCorps Alum (second to far left); Grace Co-Ortega, JRF Chief Financial Officer, fourth from right), and Tawayna Bailey, Director of AmeriCorps and Academic Services (second to right).



November

9 FY23/24 Competitive and PHA Notice of Intent to Apply Deadline

14 FY23/24 ARP Planning Grant Application Deadline

16 Program Directors' Monthly Meeting

17 FY23/24 Competitive and PHA Applications Due

30 NJ Commission on National and Community Service Meeting (Princeton Marriott)

December

21 Program Directors' Monthly Meeting

21 NJ Commission on National and Community Service Meeting

Asbury Park School District

Elizabeth Hoskins' Success Story: March 24th- 31st 2022

Every Tuesday and Thursday are dedicated to one-on-one meetings with students who need additional support outside of the classroom. I mainly focus on phonics, reading and reading comprehension. There is one student, Brian, who is a third grader reading at a beginning reading level. When I first started working with Brian, he could not read a whole sentence and struggled with 10 of the 26 letters in the alphabet. We have been diligent in our on- on-ones and after school in phonics and word formation through key sounds in rhyming words. For the first time in his life, the last week of March, Brian read six pre-decoder books. Although these books are under his grade level, it was a MAJOR accomplishment. Not only was I extremely proud of him, he was extremely proud of himself! By far one of the greatest moments I've had is watching his confidence grow as he blossoms as a reader.

Teach For America

This past year, corps member at North Star Liberty Academy Nia Freeman recognized the depth of the challenges her students had while living through a global pandemic. Nia shared: "My 3rd graders...these students are learning what school is all over again. Something that's really important to me is social emotional well-being...is making sure that these little people are showing up whole." To support her students' holistically, Nia implemented "mood meter check-ins." Her students used color charts to express how they are feeling, and Nia worked with them to make plans to address underlying needs.

NORWESCAP

Amy Kwiatek - Engagement Partner and Gargi Paul - Employment Coach

Gargi and Amy worked together with a participant who was unemployed at the time that she arrived to Norwescap as a participant. Amy was able to connect her with LIHEAP to help cut down her costs while unemployed. While we could not directly assist her with rental payments, she was a great candidate for Employment Coaching. After working with Gargi, the participant who originally was seeking a job in retail, determined that she was better suited for a role in Human Resources. She updated her resume and cover letter with Gargi, submitted to multiple listings, prepared for interviews, and just recently announced that she landed a job that pays a living wage with benefits in Human Resources.

*Great
Stories*
from quarterly progress reports



DEP Watershed Ambassadors

On Veterans Day, DEP's Watershed Ambassadors proudly salute all the veterans who continue serving our nation each year. They especially want to thank current Watershed Ambassador and Veteran Stephen Elliott for his service and all that he has done for our country. Stephen is the Watershed Ambassador for WMA 19, the Rancocas Watersheds, through his Host Agency [Pinelands Preservation Alliance](#).



EVENTS



← St. Paul's Community Development Corp.: On September 17, 2022, It was another successful Service Night at St. Alban's Episcopal Church! We thank all of the volunteers at St. Alban's who continuously show-up in support of the lunch program at our Emergency Men's Shelter. We could not continue to offer this feeding opportunity to our residents without our dedicated volunteers. We are grateful.

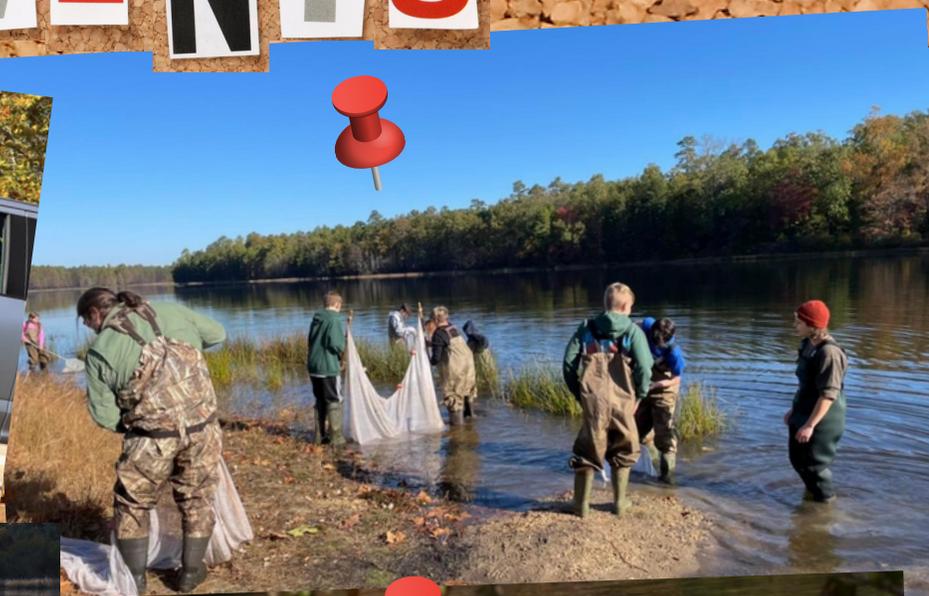


On October, 25, 2022, Watershed Ambassadors Mason Kramer, Sam Tomkovich, Steve Elliot, Katherine Dollamn, and Cameron Shapiro had a great time helping out at the Pinelands Water Monitoring Challenge event hosted by New Jersey Pinelands Commission at Historic Batsto Village!

Students from local schools learned about DEP's shellfish program, macroinvertebrates, water quality testing, well testing, and much more! They also got hands on experience on lake sampling.



EVENTS



On October 21, 2022, DEP staff and AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program participated in the Pinelands Water Monitoring Challenge event hosted by New Jersey Pinelands Commission. Students from local schools learned about DEP's shellfish program, macroinvertebrates, water quality testing, well testing, and much more! They also got hands on experience on lake sampling.

New Jersey Covid Service Corps: The Drew Food Pantry serves Drew students, staff, and faculty. We provide food, toiletries, and office/school supplies for all who visit our regular opening hours or who use our pick-up program. We are entirely donations-based, and volunteer run. We are grateful for the support from the campus and Morris County community.

There are two brown tables with cans and boxes of food. There are bins with extra cans underneath the tables. Behind one table is a tall shelf with office supplies like binders and hole punchers.



MEET FUTURE MEMBER CHRISTIAN



Just prior to the new program year, a future AmeriCorps member was born! Program Director Amanda Baksa gave birth to Christian Jozsef on August 20th. He was 6 lbs 13 oz and 18 3/4 inches! What a bundle of joy! Definitely the cutest pumpkin in the patch!!!

The entire AmeriCorps New Jersey family sends Amanda and her family the warmest wishes!!!



St. Paul's CDC

NJCDC

Zufall Health Center

The Salvation Army

Montclair State
Covid Corps

Sewa

Jewish Renaissance
Foudndation

NORWESCAP

Teach for America

TCNJ Bonner

Isles

DEP Watershed
Ambassadors

Rutgers Camden

Power Corps

Relay

Recovery Corps

City of Salem

NAAC

United Advocacy Group