



# FALL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH  
 OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH  
 NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

## JRF 11th Annual GALA



On behalf of the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for your generosity, participation, and contribution to our Eleventh Annual Gala. Because of you, our annual Gala was a remarkable success! This year we honored two outstanding humanitarians, Joseph W. Manger, CEO of Aetna Better Health of N.J., and William F. DiStanislaio, VP of Hackensack Meridian Health Care. Your dedication and your generosity have touched many lives in our continuous mission for spiritual renewal while providing quality healthcare throughout the communities we serve.



“Thank You” for all that you do and all that you have done for the families in this and surrounding communities. Your fortitude and perseverance to contribute to community-based healing will be remembered for years to come.



We are aware that the recent shift in the economy attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic has caused hardships for many, and we are profoundly grateful for your unwavering support during these uncertain times. Without your help and support, many residents in our communities will remain underserved, lack proper healthcare, and may even be forced to face greater challenges in their lives.



We need and very much appreciate the support of wonderful friends like you, who genuinely care about the Family of Programs of the JRF. We are looking forward to wonderful things in the future as well as creating and nurturing new and long-standing relationships with Health Care Providers, Community Action Partnerships and School Based mentorship programs.



May your future endeavors be equally successful and rewarding.

One People – One Heart!

Deborah A. Robinson, C.E.O.



**HOLIDAY MOVIE MATINEE!:** LOOKING FOR SOMETHING RELAXING, FUN AND FREE TO DO WITH YOUR CHILD/ CHILDREN?! JOIN US SAT 12/17/2022 @ 12PM VIA ZOOM TO WATCH A HOLIDAY MOVIE. FUN GIVEAWAYS WILL BE OFFERED AT THE END OF THE MOVIE.

**IT'S A DIAPER POP UP!:** FREE DIAPERS FOR PARENTS OF INFANTS! MUST REGISTER AND PICK UP DIAPERS AT THE BAYSIDE FSC. LOOK OUT FOR OUR REGISTRATION ON THE BAYSIDE FSC FACEBOOK PAGE. 12/21/2022 10AM-5PM.



**COMING SOON**  
 JEWISH RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE MOBILE UNITS





## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER



September 23, 2022 - The Jewish Renaissance Foundation, along with family and friends, celebrated community volunteers and AmeriCorps members during its annual volunteer recognition ceremony. The annual event focuses on individuals who selflessly give their time and attention to assist us in servicing and meeting the needs of families and individuals of the Perth Amboy, Edison, and surrounding communities.

On this day, we honored 17 AmeriCorps Members for their dedication and commitment to service, and were especially delighted to bring special recognition to 2 members, Janelle Marie Sonsiadek and Torriah Egbeyemi, both of whom, have served 4 terms of service in AmeriCorps, and will end their final commitment to AmeriCorps in December 2022.

In addition, we recognized Melvin Rodriguez, Vice President Community Manager of Chase Bank, in absentia, as one of our most committed volunteers. We also honored Mariana Suriel and Karina Almonte, two stellar student volunteers from the School Base Youth Services Program, who are always able and willing to lend a supporting hand to their community.

Members were honored by Vincent Funelas, Deputy Director of the Office of Volunteerism, and Program Officer for AmeriCorps New Jersey. He took special care to point out, the hard work that goes into being an AmeriCorps member, and the modest stipend members receive as a result. Mr. Funelas went on to say, "the hard work of the members, the individual service sites, and the JRF as a whole, are what giving back to those in need of assistance is all about." and that "You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him."—Malcolm S. Forbes.

The evening ended with a quote that reads as follows:

*"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another" "There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."*

~Author Unknown

## KABOOM PROJECT



Alongside over 250 volunteers, what an amazing experience for the JRF Staff and AmeriCorps Members as they volunteered their time and efforts to the City of Perth Amboy and the PSEG Foundation, in the building of a brand new playground at Albert G. Waters Stadium Park in Perth Amboy through Kaboom, which is a national non-profit, working to achieve #PlaySpaceEquity by uniting with communities to build kid-designed play spaces.



## AMERICORPS



**This fall the JRF AmeriCorps Members volunteered at the 9/11 Rahway River Park cleanup and enjoyed a fun-filled family and friends day at Somerset Patriots Baseball Park, alongside JRF Staff, JRF Board of Trustees and members of the AmeriCorps NJ Commission. The event included an all you can eat and drink barbeque while watching the game. Everyone had such a great time! Thanks Somerset Patriots!**

# Welcome Back BASE!

Our School Base students begin a new academic year! For their return, the SBYSP staff put together goodie bags for students filled with tasty treats.



Attached to the bags was a message that read, "This year is going to be SWEET". Each student received a bag during their lunch period, and they shared how hopeful and excited they are for the new year!

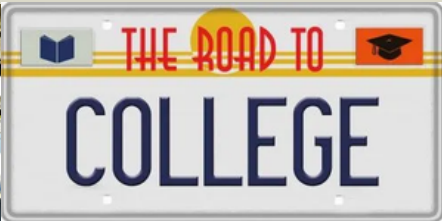


# SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

On September 9th, the School Base Youth Services Program (SBYSP) hosted a tableing event that focused on raising awareness about suicide. Students received handouts with suicide warning signs and had the opportunity to spin a wheel to receive prize incentives. If you or someone you know is in need of help, call Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:



**SUICIDE IS A PERMANENT SOLUTION, TO A TEMPORARY PROBLEM.**



**Kean University  
Campus Tour - 11/09/22  
Participants served: 30**



# STEP-UP(dates)!



Throughout the fall season, Step-Up engaged in a number of events in collaboration with the JRF PAAC program. On September 1st, Step-Up student volunteers supported the "Movie Night in the Park" event with PAAC. They served the families by distributing snacks, guiding them through the event, and enjoying the movie with them. On September 9th, students participated in planting small gardens to take home. They assisted the families with their kids, distributed snacks, and cleaned up after the event.

On September 23rd, Step-Up invited current and former students to a destressing painting activity at the PAAC Garden. Current students volunteered and assisted in the event by preparing the painting stations and serving snacks, while former students came to participate with their families that are part of our PAAC Neighborhood.



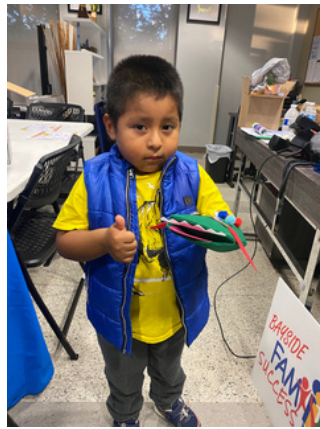
During the month of September, LEAP focused on recruiting cohort 6 for Emerging Leaders and cohort 4 for the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP). They held a tableing event in Perth Amboy High School to showcase their programs. LEAP AmeriCorps members passed out flyers and educated students on the program details.





# FAMILY SENSORY EVENT

On September 27, the Bayside FSC hosted a Family Sensory event, where families joined together to learn how important it is for kids to have some creative play growing up. Sensory play encourages learning through problem solving, exploration, curiosity, and creativity.



## Laundry BINGO

The Bayside FSC hosted a "Laundry Bringo" the first week of September at the Brighton Avenue Teen Center in partnership with the City of Perth Amboy. At this event our families got to enjoy challenging and fun Bingo Games with the opportunity to win laundry items. All families that came to the event won laundry items and left with a big smile. A total of 5 families won prizes at the event.



# BAYSIDE FSC

The Bayside Family Success Center, in partnership with Middlesex College Perth Amboy Campus and the Community Food Bank of NJ-Snap Program presented the "Cooking Matters" series throughout the months of October and November 2022. Throughout this series, every Tuesday kids have been learning to make healthy snacks and drinks for their families. The recipes they have learned to make have ranged from french toast, to trail mix, to Picadillo and healthy turkey burgers!

*Truly Grateful for you.*

After weeks of preparation at the Bayside FSC, families gathered to pick up their Thanksgiving bags, which included stuffing, cake mix, canned corn, beans, cornbread mix, gravy, and more. Additionally, each family received vouchers for Daisy's Supermarket and Antillana's Superfood, both located on Amboy Ave. in Perth Amboy. Arriving and leaving with smiles on their faces, these families were ready to celebrate the holidays. For families that couldn't make their way to the FSC, deliveries were conducted by the JRF staff. **"Laundry Love" coming Jan. 2023! Stay tuned...**



## Did you know?

ALTHOUGH MOST JRF PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO BENEFIT RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT MIDDLESEX COUNTY, OUR COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS ARE SPECIFICALLY INTENDED FOR QUALIFIED RESIDENTS IN EIGHT DESIGNATED COMMUNITIES: CARTERET, EDISON, HIGHLAND PARK, METUCHEN, PERTH AMBOY, SAYREVILLE, SOUTH AMBOY AND WOODBRIDGE.

PAAC  
PERTH AMBOY AREA COMMUNITY

Family Success Center  
BAYSIDE

FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER  
BAYSIDE

Thankful Bags & Laundry Love  
2022

Community & Family Services



# PAAC'ed with Fun!



**UNTIL THE SPRING!** On October 9, PAAC families gathered together at the PAAC Community Garden in Perth Amboy to help prepare the garden for winter while enjoying a BBQ, fresh vegetables from the garden, and nice weather.

## OUTDOOR Movie Night

09.01  
.2022

On September 1, PAAC invited it's neighborhood families to this fun-filled family event. Together they enjoyed a kid-friendly movie, winning raffles, snacks and refreshments, to bid farewell to summer!



## A.E.I.-The Acronym for "Success"

Our Education team continues to inspire and propel our community into success! Looking for inspiration, looking to obtain your GED, look no further than AEI.



### ACCEPTING NEW APPLICANTS

CONTACT US AT (732) 324 - 2114 EXT. 120

#### ABOUT US

The Alternative Education Institute (AEI) program offers a **FREE ONLINE**, comprehensive education curriculum delivered in a non-traditional and remote learning environment to help students ages 16 and older obtain their New Jersey State High School Equivalency Diploma.



#### VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

We are enrolling new applicants into our educational programs: AEI General Program and the AEI Saturday Spanish Program (SSP).



#### PROGRAM HOURS

**AEI General Program**  
(Wednesday Evening Only)  
5:00 PM-9:00 PM  
**AEI Spanish Saturday Program**  
(Saturday Only)  
9:30 AM-12:30 PM



#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

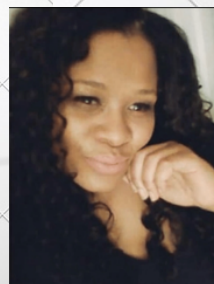
Must be 16 years old and older.  
Must live in Middlesex County, NJ.  
Must not be enrolled in school or any other educational program.  
Must be able to commit to a (3) month program.



The HiSET® test is a 5-subject high school equivalency exam that measures the academic knowledge relative to that of a high school graduate. The exam covers 5 content areas: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

## Testimonial

"Thanks so much for your well wishes & support, I appreciate it so much. I quit everything I do when it comes to myself, but I won't give up this time around. Thanks for all the hard work that goes into helping students like myself, it means more than you guys will ever know."  
~Naima Johnson



# JRF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



*Healthcare Hero*



JRF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER HEALTHCARE HERO 2022 YENNY AQUINO



Our Dental Director, Dr. Baseemah Marshall and Dental Assistant, Yisel Cordova presented to the Primrose School in Edison on October 21st.

Dr. Marshall and Yisel presented to the children on how to properly brush their teeth, floss, importance of eating healthy, and what to expect when coming to the dentist, including getting oral x-rays. The presentation was interactive, and included a visit from Dex the Dino whom the children loved. Each child in attendance also received goody bags containing oral healthcare items to take home with them.



Yenny Aquino, Patient Registrar, has been with the JRF Community Health Center for 3 years, and during this time has been an exemplary employee. She played a critical role during a time of great uncertainty, setting aside any reservations or fears, and always wearing a smile (even under her mask). She exudes a great sense of teamwork and brings a great deal of joy to her peers, and our patients. We are incredibly thankful and appreciative for all of her hard work.

*Congratulations, Yenny, on being nominated and selected as the NJPCA's 2022 Healthcare Hero for our JRF Community Health Center!*



On October 21st, the JRF Community Health Center partnered with Community Affairs and Resource Center, Aetna, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium, South Amboy Day Health Center, Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey, and Edison Blue Cares to conduct a lunch and learn with the Mission First Housing Residents in Edison. Ten residents were able to receive one on one assistance from these organizations.

**JRF Community Health Center**  
1931 Oak Tree Rd, Edison, NJ 08820  
(732) 482-9600



HAPPY *Holidays*  
FROM THE JEWISH RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

**SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**

The flu season is upon us but there is still time to get your flu vaccine and protect yourself. In addition, we have the COVID 19 Bivalent Boosters available to increase your protection against the various strains of COVID. Please contact our Health Center at 732-482-9600 to schedule an appointment.





# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Jewish Renaissance Foundation AMERICORPS Program



Are you worried about paying your own and/or your child's/grandchild's student loans? Do you want to Make a Difference for your community? Are you motivated to Get Things Done in your community?

### Become a JRF AmeriCorps Member

#### What is the JRF AmeriCorps Program?

It is a community-based, service learning program hosted by the Jewish Renaissance Foundation  
Through this program, AmeriCorps Members are placed in host agencies throughout Middlesex County, improving the quality of health education and community assistance programs.

Requires a commitment of one term. Commitment opportunities range from 3 months to one year.

#### What do I need to know to join the JRF AmeriCorps Program?

- Must be a U.S. Citizen, national or legal permanent resident.
- Weekly commitment of service hours required. Flexible opportunities available.
- Must be at least 17 years old with parental consent, or 18 and older and have received a High School Diploma, GED, or will receive one within six months of joining AmeriCorps.

#### What are some of things I would be doing as a JRF AmeriCorps Member?

- Educating your community about nutrition, health services and maintaining overall well-being.
- Facilitating youth and family programs that build self-confidence and character
- Increasing access to information and skills training to disadvantaged populations
- Gaining on-the-job skills training critical to your professional development

**Apply Now!!!!**

For more information about this program, contact:  
Tawayna Bailey  
tawayna.bailey@jrfnj.org  
(732) 324-2114 ext. 120

#### Benefits of being a JRF AmeriCorps Member?

- Modest Living Allowance
- Educational Award (can be used toward current or future school tuition, and/or student loans)
- Loan Forbearance during time of service (for qualifying student loans)
- Leadership Experience & Community Service
- Competitive Resume
- Exceptional Opportunities



**Recruiting Now**  
Info Sessions in Progress.



## JRF'S CLASSIFIEDS

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN AN AMAZING TEAM OF DEDICATED COMMUNITY LEADERS!

APPLY TODAY BY SUBMITTING YOUR RESUME TO THE JRF HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT AT

[JOBS@JRFNJ.ORG](mailto:JOBS@JRFNJ.ORG)

## JRF Community Health Center

- LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER - P/T
- FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER - P/T
- CERTIFIED DENTAL ASSISTANT - P/T EVENINGS
- DENTIST - P/T EVENINGS

## JRF Social Service Programs

- WELLNESS COORDINATOR, FAC - F/T
- GRANT WRITER - P/T
- COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR, FSC - F/T
- ACCOUNTANT - F/T
- CASE MANAGER, FAC - P/T
- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, SBYSP - F/T
- PROGRAM MANAGER, AMERICORPS - P/T

# WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION OR MAKE A DONATION? VISIT US AT:

@oneploneheart



@jrfwantsyoutoknow

Jewish Renaissance Foundation



Jewish Renaissance Foundation



[www.jrfnj.org](http://www.jrfnj.org)

