



SPRING NEWSLETTER

MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
 APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH
 MAY IS NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH



The Jewish Renaissance Foundation Welcomes Deborah A. Robinson as its' New CEO

The Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF) is pleased to announce that Ms. Deborah A. Robinson has been appointed as our new CEO!! It is with great enthusiasm and optimism that we welcome her to lead us into the next chapter for our continuously growing and prospering organization!

Deborah's heart for people and her belief that better is always accessible is evidenced everywhere she has been in leadership. A proven community leader and organizer, Deborah brings a wealth of experience as evidenced in her former role as the C.E.O. of the Martin House Foundation. Under her leadership, Martin House successfully completed the "100 homes for 100 Families Campaign" and bolstered a female headed housing community. Deborah provided oversight for their Nationally Accredited Abbott pre-school, after school programs, summer camps, clothing and furniture store, while managing CDBG initiatives. Along with her integrity, the power of her personality, education and experience poised her to build collaboratives with partners in state and local government, NGOs, an FQHC and the faith-based community. Prior to joining the Martin House Foundation, Deborah was employed with the State of N.J. Office of the Attorney General, which lead her to become a management representative for the N.J., Department of Corrections.

Deborah is passionate about providing and enhancing access to a better quality of life for the populations she serves. The quality and character of her demonstrated leadership has left the communities she served with a sense of hope and sustainable excellence. We are excited about the possibilities and trajectory to come! Thank you for your continued generous support and helping us make a difference!

Please join us in welcoming and embracing the leadership of our new CEO, Ms. Deborah A. Robinson!

To read Deborah's full Bio, please visit our website at www.jrfnj.org.



Making An Impact at the JRF!

Success is Within Reach!



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 five content areas: Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics.



Graduation Ceremony.



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday,
 June 29, 2022
 7:00pm-8:30pm
 Location: TBA

ACCEPTING NEW APPLICANTS

TO ENROLL OR LEARN MORE, CALL (732) 324-2114 ext. 120

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





Birthday Shoutouts!

JRF WISHES AN AMAZING BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING TEAM MEMBERS:

- Dr. Alan Goldsmith, 3/08
- Tawayna Bailey, 3/12
- Luz Rosa, 3/17
- Yisel Cordova, 3/20
- Johanna Cepeda, 4/04
- Dr. Nidhi Khurana, 4/10
- Destani Montford, 4/23
- Anyelina Alvarado, 5/02
- Roseiry Jimenez-Martinez, 5/05
- Heather Bosques, 5/14
- Kristi Zayas, 5/16
- Khadijah Bruton, 5/30



Celebrating Earth Day with Children & Family!

The Bayside Family Success Center celebrated Earth Day on April 22, in collaboration with the JRF-PAAC Program, JRF Step-Up program and their partners. Families were invited to a garden clean up highlighting Child Abuse Prevention Awareness (CAPA) activities. Not only did children and family members help prepare the JRF-PAAC Community Garden for a growing season, as well as a rock garden focused on kindness, they created a pinwheel garden to commemorate the importance of a healthy and happy childhood.



Special thanks goes out to our families and volunteers in helping us spread prevention awareness. Visit your local Bayside Family Success Center to learn of the great free family centered programs available to you and your family, located at:

BAYSIDE FSC
500 DOBRANSKI AVE,
PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861

"Every Child deserves the chance to be raised in a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment." - thelivingstonpost





(BASE)D ON "UPDATES"

To honor the week of acceptance, the Base partnered with the special educator, Amanda Martin from Perth Amboy High School and hosted a tabling event during the lunch periods on March 2nd. Students had the opportunity to answer questions and learn some facts about disabilities and the value of respecting one another. They also had the chance to win some prizes.



BUT WAIT...THERE'S MORE!

On Saturday, March 19, 2022, the School Based Got Heart Community Service Group assisted Perth Amboy Police Department with a clean up project. Students had the opportunity to meet community members' and build connections with our local police officers.

The Base Visits Boston

During spring break, the week of April 17- April 20, our School Base Program took 20 selected students on a trip to Boston, MA. Chaperoning was our amazing Base team, Anyelina Alvarado, Program Director, Roseiry Jimenez, Mental Health Counselor, and Precious Ojeda, Program Coordinator. During the trip, students had the opportunity to visit Harvard University and Boston University. This trip allowed students to make new friends and also make connections with current students and staff from universities, in addition to asking many questions and learning about the campus life and programs of study on each campus. Having the opportunity to visit such prestigious schools for this student population is a great accomplishment and sparked much excitement. This trip helped encourage the students to feel more motivated to improve their academics. As a recreational activity, the students went to visit the New England Aquarium and enjoyed a great afternoon with their peers.





YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM (YEP)

Our YEP students are learning about the importance of marketing to convince customers that a business is better than the competition. In this unit, students look at the importance of assembling a marketing plan and approaches to assembling customer profiles for their main customer segments.



With a focus on modern and cost-effective strategies, students put together their planned channels to customers and the key metrics they will use to measure the effectiveness of these channels. One of our favorite parts of the program is seeing the students play a game where they compete against a partner to see who can make the largest profit!

In addition, the YEP students are working on building and testing a pricing model for their product or service, in order to complete the Cost Structure and Revenue Streams tiles of the Lean Canvas.



Students use extended lab time to complete their work on the unit challenge: building and testing your revenue streams and cost structure with your customers to ensure you are selling your product or service competitively and profitably. In the Entrepreneurship Lab, students are given the freedom to work on whatever pieces of their Lean Canvas they need to work on.

EMERGING LEADERS (EL)

The fifth cohort of the Emerging Leaders' February meeting started with a team building activity and dove into reflecting on the February Homework. Emerging Leaders met guest speaker Kenny Ortiz, Superintendent of Recreation for the City of Perth Amboy.

Kenny has been a pillar of strength and support in our community and was able to talk about community engagement, program planning, and public health with our Emerging Leaders. The leaders asked questions and gave vital information regarding their stance on community service and other determinants of health.



STEP UP(dates)!

STEP UP students have been watching the show "True Beauty" together. This show helps students understand how bullying can affect someone's self-esteem, despite how strong a person may seem. Students are able to reflect while watching, on the impact of bullying and the trauma it can create.



They learn the importance of helping others overcome their fears by supporting each other even if it makes them feel uncomfortable.



To commemorate **International Women's Day**, the StepUp students created 16 cards to be delivered to all the women health care workers at the JRF Community Health Center in Edison. What a wonderful surprise!



GIRL TALK



The girls from Girl Talk united together for artistic recreation. In this game, every student was only able to draw in one stroke. Then the following student had to complete their drawing without knowing what the previous student had in mind. This allowed them to distress from a long day of school and enjoy some bonding time

COLOR FOR A KID

The StepUp students commemorated April's Child Abuse Prevention month by using art to create color filled messages of love and appreciation to kids in their lives. It served as a reminder of the importance of reporting and watching out for those suffering of abuse.





FEEDING EDISON

On March 30, 2022 the Jewish Renaissance Foundation's Community & Family Services Dept., in partnership with Community Foodbank of New Jersey & the Edison Housing Authority hosted the "Feeding Edison" event, which provided nourishment to the community by distributing groceries to those in need. In addition, the JRF Community Health Center, also a program of the JRF, supported the "Feeding Edison" event by providing attendees with blood pressure/glucose screenings, COVID vaccines and had staff on-site to assist in answering insurance eligibility questions. Each and every partner was key in making this a success:

- *The CFBNJ Team were such a pleasure to work with. Jenn, you and Anuroop helped make this such a smooth process.*
- *The Edison Housing Authority Team - Deborah, April and Carmen, your knowledge and expertise were essential to setting us up to be efficient.*
- *Our sister Mobile Family Success Center, Rosella and Team are always such a driving force to get things done and our families to come out.*
- *We were so grateful to our SNAPed Team who provided vital information about nutrition and resources.*
- *Last, but certainly not least, our Americorps Members, who are 100% dependable, work hard and are always willing to go the extra mile.*



Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. The JRF wants you to know the impact of your efforts:

- *As a team we put together almost 200 bags filled with a nice variety of food and served 50 of our neighbors as well as volunteers and staff.*
- *Many of our neighbors and staff received health screenings.*
- *1 person received their first vaccine and 7 people received their second and booster dose.*

Raising Awareness About Poverty & Food Insecurity in Middlesex County

On May 25th, the JRF, in collaboration with REPLENISH and PRAB, hosted the Food for Thought Challenge; an interactive in-person experience that brings awareness through a visual representation to the issues of poverty in Middlesex County. Jose Montes, CEO of PRAB, Jennifer Apostol, Director of REPLENISH and Sherri Goldberg, Director of Community & Family Services of the JRF facilitated the conversation and Reginald Gaines, JRF Board Member, was Master of Ceremonies for the day.

Held at Middlesex College, in Edison, NJ, participants were divided into different income groups based on the most recent Middlesex County statistics, and were served a meal according to their assigned income level. Through this experience, participants were challenged with the true meaning behind the food insecurity and cost of living statistics presented in newspaper articles and reports, that many Middlesex County families know firsthand. Tying into REPLENISH's Spring School Food Drive, the top 45 schools that collected the most food were invited to join the conversation addressing food insecurity and poverty in their communities. Teachers, principals, and community leaders from all over the county came together to discuss some contributing factors of poverty, such as the high cost of living, unemployment, and of course, the Covid-19 Pandemic. Participants left the event with a greater understanding of the actual number of residents living in poverty and how they can help their students/constituents get involved during these challenging times.

In addition to our facilitators, NJ County Commissioner, Charles E. Tomaro welcomed the group, and Mayor Helmin Caba, of the City of Perth Amboy, and Dianne Roman, Director of Human Services of Perth Amboy, shared some inspiring words with participants. In addition, our County Clerk, Nancy Pintkin was able to stop by as well.

We thank all the schools who participated in REPLENISH's Spring School Food Drive and for fostering our youth's empathy and community service. We would also like to thank our amazing partners, REPLENISH, PRAB, and Middlesex College! We could not have done it without you!



JRF Community Health Center

1931 Oak Tree Rd, Edison, NJ 08820
(732) 482-9600

The JRF Community Health Center continues in the fight against COVID-19.

As an important reminder, COVID-19 vaccines are now recommended for ages 5 years and older. All COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and reduce the risk of severe illness. **If you are 18 and older, and in need of the COVID-19 vaccine and/or boosters, please contact us so we can schedule your appointment.**

In addition to vaccination efforts, testing also continues. **If you are in need of a COVID-19 test please contact our friendly front desk staff to arrange an appointment.** We are also able to distribute at home rapid Covid-19 tests to our patients while supplies last.

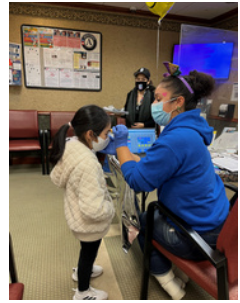
For more information about the vaccines including myth busters and frequently asked questions, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

In addition there are several ways we can all continue to protect ourselves and others. You can find valuable tips by visiting: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>



The annual Give Kids A Smile Day was a wonderful success. From the promotion and preparation for the event, to the very last registration and care of our last child, the day could not have gone better.

We painted faces, set up snack stations, coloring corners, and even a game area to keep the children entertained prior to providing exams and cleanings to 22 children. The children expressed how happy they were to be at the dentist, which is music to any dentists' ears. We do not usually get to bask in the pleasure or excitement of our patients, let alone children, wanting to come visit the dentist. BUT times are changing and experiences at the dentist are too; we're moving toward a more positive space and comprehensive treatment leading our patients to healthier smiles and healthier lives.



2022 NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK LUNCHEON



The 2022 National Women's Health Week Luncheon was held by the NJPCA on Friday, May, 13, 2022 at the Cobblestone Creek Country Club. In attendance were Health Centers across the state of NJ to celebrate the importance of women's health and learn how to make positive changes that are long lasting. Staff members in attendance to represent the Jewish Renaissance Foundation included Antonia Ricigliano, Board Chair, Deborah Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, Jaime Rivello, Chief Compliance Officer, Kristi Zayas, Director of Health Services, Amarjit Saini, Medical Provider, and Dr. Baseemah Marshall, Dental Director. Each attendee had the option to participate in a contest for best hat, and we are proud to announce that Dr. Marshall was selected as the winner of the competition! She was voted the best by all the attendees as her matching hat and outfit were so beautiful and stunned with elegance! Dr. Marshall was awarded a neck and shoulder massager shown in the picture with the NJPCA staff members who presented the prize. **Congratulations, Dr. Marshall from everyone at the JRF!**

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.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



AmeriCorps
New Jersey

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 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

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.

Apply Now!!!!



Recruiting Now
Info Sessions in Progress.

For more information about AmeriCorps, contact:
TawaynaBailey, Director of Volunteer & Adult Services at
tawayna.bailey@jrfnj.org or (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

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

JRF Community Health Center

- LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, P/T
- CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT, P/T
- FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER, P/T
- LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, P/T
- DENTIST - SATURDAYS AND EVENINGS
- CERTIFIED DENTAL ASSISTANT - SATURDAYS AND EVENINGS!

JRF Social Service Programs

- WELLNESS COORDINATOR, FAC
- GRANT WRITER, P/T
- COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR, FSC
- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION? VISIT US AT:

@oneploneheart



@jrfwantsyoutoknow

Jewish Renaissance Foundation



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www.jrfnj.org

