



A YEAR IN REVIEW

A Message from our New CEO



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CHECK US OUT:

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Dear Community Members,

As we embark into this new year with promise and opportunity, it's essential to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've traveled together in 2023. Despite any challenges we faced, I'm incredibly proud of what we achieved as a team. In January 2023, I was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, and it has indeed been a whirlwind of change and exciting new happenings.

Throughout the year, we witnessed remarkable growth and innovation across all departments, fueled by your dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence. From launching a new location in Perth Amboy and creation of a Medical mobile unit, to forging strategic partnerships, each accomplishment has brought us closer to our collective vision of JRF's vision and mission.

Here are some highlights from our journey in 2023:

- **Expansion of Services:** We introduced a new location in Perth Amboy (533 New Brunswick Avenue, that expands our programs such as AEI, Training and Testing, PAAC, FAC, and My Choice Store, which you can read all about in this edition of the newsletter. In addition to the new location, our Medical Mobile Unit project was completed and is now ready for use. With our 25 foot mobile unit, we will be able to service the community at health fairs providing vaccinations, screenings and education about health topics. In addition to health fairs, we will also be able to provide primary and preventative care to Adults and Pediatrics.

- **Employee Engagement:** Our greatest asset is our talented and dedicated team. In 2023, we invested in initiatives to support employee development, well-being, and diversity, fostering a culture of inclusivity, collaboration, and innovation.

- **Community Events:** As you read through the newsletter, you will see just how many events and services were provided to the members of the community. It truly is remarkable just how much can be accomplished by developing and maintaining partnerships within the community.

Looking ahead to 2024, I'm confident that we will build upon the momentum of the past year and achieve even greater success together. As we continue to navigate the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, let's remain united in our shared purpose and unwavering dedication to excellence.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and passion. Together, we will continue to innovate, inspire, and make a difference in the world.

Warm regards,
Ms. Jaime Rivello
 Chief Executive Officer



Serving the City of Perth Amboy and surrounding communities in Middlesex County. We believe in changing lives by creating hope and self-sufficiency, and we succeed by providing individuals, children and families with essential health and human services, community development and youth programs. Our life-improving services extend across all cultures and faiths, regardless of economic status.

Come check us out to learn more about the following programs:

- Family Assistance Center (FAC) including "My Choice Store"
- Perth Amboy Alliance for Community (PAAC)
- Alternative Education Institute (AEI)
- JRF Training & Testing Center
- Americorps



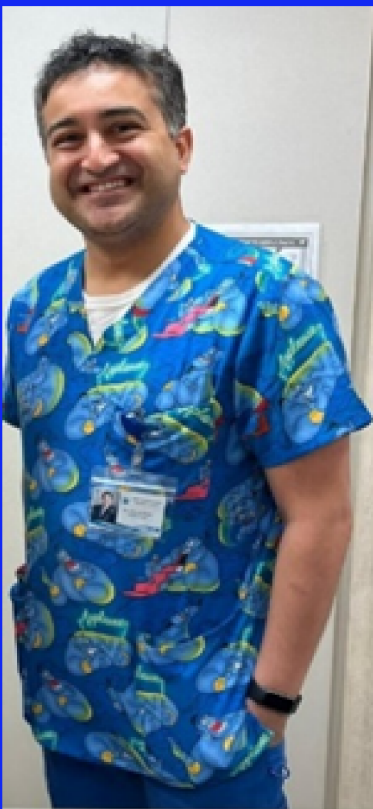
Give Kids a Smile Day 2023

Throughout the year, the JRF Community Health Center provided vital medical, dental and behavioral health services to underserved populations, including the homeless and uninsured. According to our reports a total of 1,111 unduplicated patients were seen at our facility during the year, with a total of 3,430 patient visits. Of these patients 233 were uninsured, and 215 homeless.

We kicked off the year with our annual Give Kids a Smile Day on February 24th, providing free exams to children, giveaways, food and entertainment that included a balloon artist and face painting. A total of 23 children received free dental services that day.



WOW!



Meet our new Pediatrician

In May 2023 we on-boarded our first Pediatrician, Dr. Bang. He is Board Certified and has over 5 years of experience in providing high-quality care to children in various settings.

The JRF began to schedule pediatric visits with our new pediatrician on select Saturdays. Please call the health center for an appointment.

We treated 23 children which included diagnosing and treating dental infections; completed multiple extractions, exams, prophylaxis, and fluoride treatments. The patients and their parents were educated on proper oral hygiene and also participated in fun activities such as face painting, balloon art, games and more. This year we had Jersey Mike's donate lunch boxes that each patient got to take home. It was an amazing team effort, and we look forward to doing it again next year!



May 6th-12th was National Nurses Week – We acknowledged our incredibly hard-working nursing staff for all that they do.

Team
AWESOME



In June, the NJDOH Project Firstline Infection Control Response (ICAR) Team came to the JRF Community Health Center to conduct an Infection Control Escape Room. Our staff were broken up into two groups and provided with an interactive, educational, and challenging experience. Staff worked together to solve various challenges around infection control within our exam rooms with the goal of being the first to escape.



August 6th

National Health Center Week festivities were held. We provided our patients with giveaways throughout the week and acknowledged our Health Center staff for the incredible amount of hard work they put in. In addition, bookbags with school supplies donated by NJPCA were distributed to children/teens for their back-to-school needs. A representative from NJDOH, Kim Laloma, came on-site and presented us with a proclamation in support of National Health Center Week.





Our Outreach Coordinator and part-time nursing staff provided COVID Vaccine education outreach and free health screenings through partnerships with other community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, shelters, and public and senior housing. Through these efforts they were able provide COVID Vax education and free health screenings to a total of **471 individuals** throughout 2023. A total of **21** received COVID vaccine doses as a result of this community outreach and education.



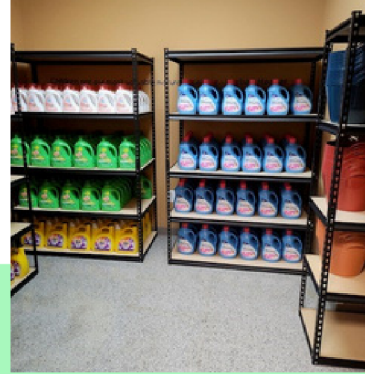
MOBILE UNIT

We acquired our first mobile unit in late 2023. With this unit we will be able to provide mobile clinics allowing for easy access, and viable options for treating isolated and vulnerable groups, as well as those who may be displaced.





Bayside Family Success Center launches "Loads of Care"



Thank You

The Bayside Family Success Center in partnership of the JRF- Family Assistance Center began a new initiative in January 2023 called "Loads of Care". Created as a direct response to the rise of food prices in our economy, "Loads of Care" is a onetime donation of laundry items to Perth Amboy families every other month. Due to inflation many of our families are finding themselves making difficult choices to stretch their budgets, including cutting out laundry and self-care items to stretch their buck.

The Bayside FSC, its partners and sponsors recognize that many of our families are struggling financially. The hope is that Loads of Care will help positively offset their household budget, allowing families to apply these funds in areas they need most.

The initiative was launched January with a distribution date at the end of the month. The community's response was great! The level of service of 35 families was reached within 1/2 an hour and the waiting list was met for February's distribution by the 1st hour of launching the registration. Special thanks to our AmeriCorps partnership, as they held a day of service in support of this initiative by collecting donated laundry items for our community.

Out of this initiative, we also look to provide monthly workshops on how to stretch laundry detergent and most of all stretching your funds to cover monthly laundry expenses. Lastly, our goal will also be to collaborate with local laundromats to provide affordable quality options of where families can wash their clothes. Please look out for the great ideas to come!

The Bayside Family Success Center hosted its bi-monthly diaper distribution on February 15, 2023. The Bayside FSC team was eager to provide this program to families as this was the very first diaper distribution of 2023. Typically, distributions are scheduled based on available donations, yet this year the Bayside FSC challenged itself to provide continuous support to families throughout 2023. In doing so, partnerships with organizations that could provide direct services on a more continuous basis were sought out and established.

In response to the growing need of baby supplies throughout our county, most importantly Perth Amboy, the Bayside FSC formalized a partnership with Central Jersey Diaper Bank. This partnership will allow the Bayside FSC to schedule bi-monthly diaper and baby supply distributions for families in Perth Amboy as well as increase the level of service from 30 families to over 50 families served. Most of the items donated to families will be supplied by Central Jersey Diaper Bank. In addition, The Bayside FSC reached out to their funders DCF and Horizon NJ Health to obtain additional supplies such as baby formula pack and plays, additional diapers and pull ups.

Thanks to our partnerships and coordination of resources and supplies, The Bayside FSC was able to provide over 50 families with baby supplies, infant formula, diapers, and pack and plays.

Diaper Distribution





DECEMBER 2023

A Month of Gratitude

The Bayside Family Success Center in collaboration with the JRF's Community & Family Services Programs hosted its annual holiday festivities in person for 2023.

After much social distancing, The Bayside FSC hosted “How the Grinch Stole Brunch” with one of our favorite holiday characters. We partnered with the City of Perth Amboy, Perth Amboy Police Department, Americorps, Horizon NJ Health and Chase Bank to bring Perth Amboy families a day of fun, dancing, games, give aways, great food and toys. The FSC welcomed close to 120 parents and children.

After several years of hosting this event virtual and moving to hybrid last year, we were able to rekindle our relationships with many of our close partners like Horizon and the Perth Amboy Recreation Department while forging new relationships with the Perth Amboy Police Department and their new recruit program. Our families were also joined by Mayor Caba and his family as well as Assemblywoman Lopez's staff.

It truly does take a village to bring hope, unity, and holiday magic to our community. We are thankful that we can touch the lives of our families with the opportunity to experience joy and celebrate the holiday season.





Emerging Leaders

On October 29th, 2023, Emerging Leaders held their induction ceremony along with the orientation and first meeting. Each Emerging Leader made a pledge to their community and the program. We held our Emerging Leader orientation and explained to our leaders what the JRF stands for and what will be expected of them during this cohort 7. Emerging Leaders were also given their first assignment and completed their personality test to find out what their strongest attributes are.

In December, Emerging Leaders participated in the team building activity which encouraged them to explore their observational skills by providing three examples of what they perceive using their five senses. The November homework assignment was reviewed, which introduced the students to MAP IT and other crucial components of program planning. The focus of this month's meeting was to brainstorm ideas for the summer initiative and practice program planning with specific outcomes in mind. Emerging Leaders learned new tools regarding goal setting to aid them in preparing for the summer initiative. Major tools learned were SMART goals and logic models which the students will use going forward in later projects, and most importantly in developing their summer initiative plans. The Emerging Leaders also had their winter retreat at Escapology where they used their strategizing and team building skills to navigate their way through an escape room.





Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) - The Youth Entrepreneurship Program held their orientation on October 24th, 2023. During this meeting the AmeriCorps members and students were introduced to each other. We started the meeting off with an ice break (charades). AmeriCorps member Karina Almonte shared her testimonials and information on what is to come. Y.E.P was also granted an amazing opportunity to attend Black Entrepreneurship Day by Daymond John in New York City with special guest Whoopi Goldberg, Cedric the Entertainer, Anthony Anderson, Ice T, and a performance by Rick Ross.



During the month of December, youth entrepreneurs worked as a team to interview dog owners about problems that they have with their dogs. Then, the youth entrepreneurs gather as much information as possible to pinpoint the issue and come up with a creative product to rectify it. The students also took part in the Restaurant Wars Challenge, where groups of students each came up with their own unique restaurants, in which they were encouraged to find innovative ways to make their businesses stand out amongst the other contestants.

AEI Graduating Class of 2023

ON MARCH 24, 2023, THE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION INSTITUTE (AEI) HELD THEIR SPRING GRADUATION CEREMONY

March 24, 2023 - the Jewish Renaissance Foundation proudly graduated a total of 11 students from the Alternative Education Institute (AEI). There was a total of 26 graduates who participated in the ceremony, 10 Edison Job Corps and 5 general testers. The evening was filled with cheerful applause, tears, and anxious anticipation from the graduates, their families, friends, JRF Board members, Edison Job Corps staff, and the JRF staff.



As the graduates marched down the aisle to "Pomp and Circumstance", the smiles upon their faces were evident of the hard work, time, and dedication that led them to this day. There were inspirational readings and musical selections, shared by our graduates and JRF staff, and this year, we had the privilege of having a keynote speaker who delivered their speech in both English and Spanish. JRF CEO, Jaime Rivello, opened the ceremony with words that were read by the Director of Academic Services, Tawayna Bailey, and words of inspiration were given by Wilda Diaz, the Jewish Renaissance Foundation Board President, and Ashton Stripling, Director of Edison Job Corps.

The evening ended with pictures, hugs, happy tears, and refreshments.

To the Spring class of 2023, "Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good" -- Minor Myers Jr.

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.

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

Congratulations to the Spring Class of 2023!



In partnership with Chase Bank and the VP Community Manager, Melvin Rodriguez, The Base hosted a three-part series of financial literacy workshops. Students had the opportunity to learn about saving and setting up their budgets. They also learned about building credit and avoiding scams and fraud. Students were very engaged and there was open discussion which allowed them to bond with their peers and the guest speaker.



DREW UNIVERSITY CAMPUS TOUR

On November 8th, 25 students from Perth Amboy High School had the opportunity to visit Drew University. The tour started with an information session in which students learned about the program of study and the different programs the school has to offer. Then students were shown the campus in small groups which allowed them to ask questions and interact with the tour personnel.





In partnership with Berkeley College, The Base hosted a two series (November 20th & 27th) workshop that educated students on the career process and prepared them for the workforce. These workshops defined and identified newfound strengths and provide valuable insight for high school seniors who are exploring their college and career options. These workshops offered students insight to author an honest and genuine account, which can be used for their college essay, brag sheet, or personal statement. Communication and interviewing skills, as well as business etiquette were emphasized.



SHOP WITH A COP

On December 15th, 2023, in partnership with the Perth Amboy Police Department, the City of Perth Amboy, and the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, the program participated in the Shop with a Cop event for the first time. The students that were active with the program had the opportunity to apply for this event, and twenty were randomly selected. Each student was paired with a police officer and had the chance to shop for Christmas for themselves and their families. This event allowed students to foster relationships with member of the community while having a fun time





9-11 DAY OF SERVICE EVENTS

11



On the 22nd Anniversary of the tragic 9/11 attacks, we pause to reflect, honor, and remember the lives that were lost on that fateful day. Our AmeriCorps members, in collaboration with the Town of Phillipsburg once again came together to commemorate this solemn occasion on Monday, September 11th, 2023. We invite you to join us in paying tribute to the heroes and victims of 9/11 by sponsoring American Flags that was placed at Shappell Park. Each \$1.00 donation you make will sponsor one flag, symbolizing unity, resilience, and our unwavering support for the Phillipsburg Fire Department. Through your generosity, we can help them continue their vital work of serving and protecting our beloved community.

9/11

Every year, on the solemn anniversary of September 11th, our dedicated AmeriCorps members at New Jersey Community Development Corporation (right), honor the memory of those lost and the heroism of the first responders by conducting a **Day of Service cleanup** initiative across Paterson.



The New Jersey AmeriCorps Commission Staff Offered Multiple Trainings

Our Staff at the State Commission was very busy in September and October. We offered multiple in-person trainings for our Program Directors, program Support staff and members.

We started off in September, to kick off the new program year, with a training for all Program Directors. We call this training "Starting Stronger". This was a follow up event to the "Starting Strong" that was offered in August.

We dove deeper into topics related to running a successful AmeriCorps Program. The topics included "Building Resilient Communities", by Kayann Foster, Certified ACES Trainer, "Data Quality and Collection Methods" by our partners at Montclair State University, "The Process and Outreach for Medicaid Renewal" by Carol Grant, Department of Human Services.

Our staff rounded out the day with trainings on best practices for Program Directors, AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions, as well as the many AmeriCorps Regulations and FAQ.



September 26

Rutgers University, Camden Campus Coat Drive

Site Supervisor, Kim McGuinness organized in collaboration with our other site supervisor, Brad McCartney, and involved 75 families receiving winter coats and backpacks



FOR MORE INFO, CHECK OUT [NEW JERSEY AMERICORPS NEWSLETTER](#)

PAAC

PAAC Community Garden hosted "Earth Day" on Friday, April 21, 2023. The community garden was open and the event was well attended by families and our community partners. Students from our STEP UP and School Based Youth Services programs came together to clean the garden and plant the seasons first fruits and vegetables. They also decorated special Earth Day rocks and made pinwheels that commemorated the day. Mayor Helmin Caba attended on behalf of the City of Perth Amboy, as well as City Council members.



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

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

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 is 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 the program, contact:

Tawayna Bailey
tawayna.bailey@jrfnj.org

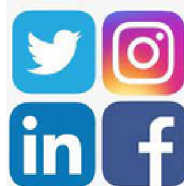


Recruiting Now
Info Sessions in Progress.



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

@oneploneheart



@jrfwantsyoutoknow

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