

# DONOR NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION TO INFORM YMCA OF METUCHEN, EDISON, WOODBRIDGE & SOUTH AMBOY DONORS OF THE IMPACT OF THEIR GIFT

## JANICE GARBOLINO MEMORIAL 5K RUN/WALK



The 2017 Janice Garbolino Memorial 5K Run/Walk was held on Saturday, September 23rd in Roosevelt Park in Edison. This year, there were 264 runners and walkers. All proceeds go to the LiveSTRONG® at the Y cancer survivors program, in honor of Janice Garbolino, the former Health and Wellness Director at the Metuchen Y who lost her battle with cancer in 2002.

This year's theme was "Calling All Superheroes" and many participants came out in full garb, making for a very colorful race.

The LiveSTRONG program continues to change lives. As one survivor, Barbara, wrote, "LiveSTRONG saved my life. At my very lowest point, the program and staff gave me hope that I could come back from this devastating experience as a whole person. They are my true guardian angels and I now have the opportunity to pay it forward. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart." If you wish to contribute to this life-changing program, please visit [LiveStrong at the YMCA](#).



## TOT TROT & YOUTH FUN RUN

The Tot Trot & Youth Fun Run was held on Sunday, October 1st at Metuchen High School. Hundreds of families were there to support this race, the proceeds of which go to the YMCA Childcare Assistance Fund for families who are unable to pay the full cost of child care. The fund also provides aid to families in crisis and

allows us to temporarily provide tuition assistance in the event of a family emergency. In 2016, we were able to support our community with \$98,000 in scholarship assistance for families unable to afford the full cost of service.



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

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## ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you think may find it useful.

## QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Contact Cathy Haugh at  
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Follow us on Twitter and Facebook!



Edison



Metuchen



South Amboy



Association Office

# NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Staff and volunteers partnered with community organizations to commemorate the National Day of Service and Remembrance of 9/11.

Metuchen Y staff and community volunteers from the Metuchen Garden Club, Fire Department and Public Works beautified the area by Freedom Plaza in preparation for 9/11. Of note is that Ed Van Eckhart of Farmers Insurance in Metuchen donated \$500 for their t-shirts and supplies.



Programs made cards thanking the veterans for all they have done for our country. One of the highlights of the day was having Mayor Lankey participate in the event and spoke about his gratitude for their service and remembrance on the anniversary of 9/11.

The South Amboy Y held a collection drive during the months of August and September to collect items needed for troops that are deployed. They also had the SACC children write thank you letters and draw pictures to service members. SAY worked in conjunction with Operation Gratitude, an organization that sends care packages to active military. Over 150 items were collected and 25 letters shipped to Operation Gratitude.



The children from Ken Shirk Learning Center participated in the National Day of Service by making sandwiches and assembling lunches including water, sandwich and a granola bar, to be distributed to the homeless population. They even decorated the lunch bags themselves! We are very proud that our children are learning how to be socially responsible at such a young age!



## WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

## PAY US LATER!

Make a commitment of support today to the Y with an automatically drafted gift from your bank or credit card, which can be paid up until the end of the year.

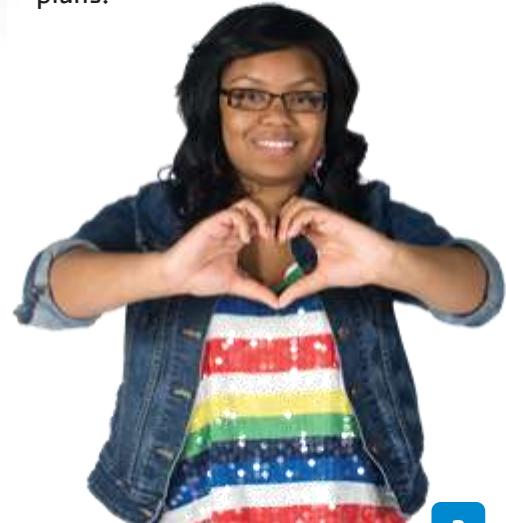
## GIVING SOCIETIES FOR MAJOR GIFTS

### Chairman's Round Table

A one-time gift of \$1,000 or more

### Edgar Society

A gift of \$5,000 or more in one year or by simply including the YMCA of MEWSA in your estate plans.





Boscov's  
Friends  
Helping  
Friends Event  
is planned for  
Tuesday,

October 17th. This event is an opportunity for YMCA's and YMCA Child Care Centers to raise funds by selling discount shopping passes to the event. For just \$5.00, you can purchase a 25% discount shopping pass for purchases made on October 17th from 9am to 11pm at all Boscov's locations, and the \$5.00 will go directly to our Annual Support Campaign!

Please visit any YMCA branch to purchase your pass today!

## DID YOU KNOW

That if you shop through AmazonSmile and choose the YMCA of Metuchen as your charitable organization, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 5% of the price of eligible purchases to the Y! You can go directly to AmazonSmile by clicking the logo below.



## JFK AS A PARTNER

At our recent Child Care training event held in August, JFK provided lunch free of charge to all participants. Their sponsorship is much appreciated!



# YMCA SWIM LESSONS ARE LIFESAVERS!

This September the YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy launched its updated swim lessons curriculum to increase the accessibility and enjoyment of swimming to all ages and skill levels.

The latest evolution of Y Swim Lessons accommodates varying abilities to help foster a sense of achievement as swimmers' progress between levels. Through this approach, advanced swimmers flow more easily to higher levels while swimmers who need more instruction can learn at their own pace. This results in more confident swimmers who stick with lessons and develop a love for swimming that can last a lifetime.



Click [here](#) for more information on our new swimming curriculum for children, adults and seniors.

## GRANT UPDATE

As a non-profit organization, the Y relies on the generosity of donors and grant funders to continue carrying out our mission through our programs and facilities. The Y gives thanks to our most recent grant funders:

- A **JCPenney Back to School** donation of over 1,000 pairs of boys and girls underwear and almost 7,000 pairs of socks for children in our school programs that may be feeling the negative effects of going without these basics.
- A \$5,000 grant from the **Wells Fargo Foundation** for the newly formed [Leader's Club](#), aimed at teens between the ages of 12-18 and organized for the purpose of developing youth as leaders and fostering a culture of service.
- A \$7,500 grant from the **PNC Bank Foundation** to support the new initiative called "Scratch, Jr.", a program developed for 5-7 year olds that teaches them how to create interactive computer games, but also provides them with the skills necessary to code computer programs which leads to the ability to solve problems, design projects and communicate ideas. The Y has previously received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the **Provident Bank Foundation** for our [Scratch](#) program for 7-12 year olds.

# WELCOMING WEEK

The Y believes our communities are stronger when everyone feels welcome and we work together for the common good. Welcoming Week took place between September 15-24 to help celebrate the growing movement of communities that fully embrace new Americans and their contributions to the social fabric of our country. It's a chance for neighbors—both immigrants and U.S.-born residents—to get to know one another and celebrate what unites us as a community.

See how each of our branches celebrated diversity and inclusion!

The Edison Y had a lobby display of international flags and interactive maps where members could identify the country where they or their ancestors came from. There was also a lending library of children's diversity books that they could read. Many fitness classes were also showcased that originated in other countries along with cultural music and welcoming signage.

Metuchen staff member Bhairvi Sethi-Dimple performed an exotic dance from their homeland of India for the SACC children. Local Metuchen restaurants provided a sampling of foods from their native countries for people to experience different tastes from around the world. They also created a video of staff and members who are "Welcomers". You can view the video [here](#). Flags from around the world were displayed and music from different countries was played at the Welcome Center.

South Amboy held a variety of activities including SACC children and members making flags from their country which were displayed in the lobby as well as an interactive map to show member's country of ancestry, Welcome Center staff learning new welcoming phrases which they tried out during the week, and a guest guitar player who played music from around the world. They also held an Open House and had Enrichment Class showcases.

Overall, Welcoming Week was very successful at all branches!



## WAYS TO GIVE

Did you know your gift doesn't have to be made in cash? You can gift stock, in-kind, matching gifts, in honor or in memory of a loved one, marketable securities, planned giving, charitable trust, or even through Amazon Smile!

**GIVE NOW**

## NATIONWIDE POSITIONING CAMPAIGN

The Y is working toward a better US. Us is a foundation. Us is a bond. Us is a future. But right now, it feels like the bond is fraying. We need a place that can make us whole—where common ground is plenty, differences are assets and opportunity is for all. And thankfully, that place exists, right here in cities and towns across the country. The Y fills the gaps that need filling. Now more than ever, the Y needs your support. Because where there's a Y, there's an US.

**PLAY FILM**

## SAVE THE DATE!

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Event Oct 17

Branch Halloween Events Oct 27

Giving Tuesday Nov 28

## 2018

Annual Campaign Rally Jan 9

Annual Dinner May 2

Richard Hale Golf Outing June 5

For more information, contact [Cathy Haugh](#).