

The Provident Bank Foundation

SPECIAL PUBLICATION

The Provident Bank Foundation's
15th Anniversary
"Commit to Care" Grants



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In 2018, The Provident Bank Foundation celebrated 15 years of commitment to making an impact on the communities served by Provident Bank. Since 2003, The Provident Bank Foundation has granted more than \$24 million to organizations working toward strengthening those communities. The Foundation has made incredible strides in its mission to enhance the quality of life through programs focused on community enrichment, education, and health, youth and families.

In celebration of that milestone year, The Provident Bank Foundation established “Commit to Care” Grants, 12 employee-nominated grants of \$15,000 each to be awarded to deserving organizations doing the most impactful work in the communities served by Provident Bank.

The name of these grants is a not-so-subtle nod to Provident Bank’s employee engagement program which encourages volunteerism and community action. And for the first time in the Foundation’s history, employees of Provident Bank and Beacon Trust were asked to be a part of the grant process by nominating organizations they were aware of or involved with, or ones they felt passionate about.

When the Foundation announced its plan for these grants and invited employees to be a part of the process, we weren’t sure what kind of response we’d get. The Foundation’s Board and staff were blown away by the response—104 employees submitted nominations for 93 worthy organizations across Provident Bank’s marketplace. Of those nominated and vetted, 84 groups were invited to apply for grants, and as the deadline loomed and the applications rolled in, excitement continued to build.

In total, 60 applications were received for a wide array of programs, projects, and initiatives. Each request was unique and described worthy efforts to address the significant needs in the communities these groups served. As with other grants

of this size, a rubric was used to score each request, based on its own merit, in the following categories: scope, need, reach, measurable outcomes, communication, organizational capacity, business model, and—unique to this grant, but most importantly—employee engagement. It was that final metric that set many of these requests apart from the others.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors then voted on the 12 finalists that best exemplified our commitment to build stronger communities, grow minds through education, and support the quality of life for people of all ages. In this newsletter, we are proud to share with you the programs and initiatives that are being supported by the “Commit to Care” Grants.

We are grateful to the employees of Provident Bank and Beacon Trust for their participation. The Provident Bank Foundation is proud to support these organizations and the indelible marks they are leaving on their communities.



Pictured (left to right):
Samantha Plotino, Jane
Kurek, and Donna Abbott

MEET THE GRANTEES!

Allaire Community Farm was nominated by Gloria Szynal from Provident Bank's Manasquan Branch. Gloria nominated the group because she felt strongly that they were making a significant difference in the community thanks to their involvement with special needs and at-risk individuals and their families.

Allaire Community Farm serves special needs and at-risk people of all ages, and their families, through a "nurture with nature" approach. Everyone is welcome at Allaire Community Farm, where rescued animals and a working farm environment promote healing through animal therapy, equine therapy, organic gardening, and vocational training.

The key to Allaire Community Farm having a tremendously positive

reach on the Monmouth County community is making the farm fully accessible to people of all abilities. The "Commit to Care" Grant will support the development of an **indoor/outdoor sanctuary** that will ensure the farm is fully accessible to people of all abilities, year-round. The revitalized and expanded farm will include a Path to Independence that begins at the farm entrance and leads wheelchair-bound visitors—and visitors of all abilities—throughout the property. The indoor/outdoor sanctuary will enable Allaire Community Farm to expand its outreach efforts even further through therapeutic horseback and carriage riding, special needs days, and mental health awareness programs that focus on veterans with PTSD.

To learn more about **Allaire Community Farm**, visit <https://allairecommunityfarm.org>.



Pictured (left to right): JoAnn Burney, Executive Director of Allaire Community Farm; Linda Young, Secretary of the Board of Directors of Allaire Community Farm; Gloria Szynal of Provident Bank's Manasquan Branch; Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; and Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors.



Pictured (left to right): Chris Martin, Chairman, President & CEO of Provident Bank; Frank Carragher, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County; Mary Kelly, Assistant Executive Director of Business & Finance of The Arc of Union County; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation; and Conor Gaynor of Provident Bank's Healthcare Lending team.

The Arc of Union County was nominated by Conor Gaynor of Provident Bank's Healthcare Lending team. In his nomination, Conor highlighted The Arc's tremendous accomplishments supporting children and adults who are differently-abled through education and family support.

The mission of The Arc of Union is to empower and support individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc of Union utilizes its resources to ensure its members, their families, and all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities associated with their organization realize a full, productive, and enhanced life.

The Arc of Union has found that Union County's service industries are growing vastly. Therefore, the need for professionally trained

individuals is vital to their financial growth. To address this need, The Arc of Union will use the "Commit to Care" Grant to launch the **Customer Service and Hospitality training course** and support on-going job development, job coaching and employment counseling for 32 people with disabilities. Their goal is to enhance competitive employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through targeted training, education, and support.

To learn more about **The Arc of Union County**, visit <http://www.arcunion.org>.

MEET THE GRANTEES!



Pictured (left to right): Chris Martin, Chairman, President & CEO of Provident Bank; Gina Carro, Chief Development & Marketing Officer of Cancer Support Community Central NJ; Amy Sutton, CEO of Cancer Support Community Central NJ; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation; and Sandy Kennedy, VP/Market Manager of Provident Bank.

Cancer Support Community Central New Jersey (CSCCNJ) was nominated by Sandra Kennedy of Provident Bank's North West Retail Banking Region. Sandy's relationship with CSCCNJ began more than 7 years ago. She currently serves on their Board of Trustees and was a member of their Leadership Council.

Sandy has seen the benefit of CSCCNJ's programs and services—both as a volunteer and as a participant. Less than a year after meeting CSCCNJ, Sandy's husband was diagnosed with lung cancer and together they sought support services from the organization. Months later, Sandy found herself attending their bereavement group.

In the spirit of their mission to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community, CSCCNJ will utilize the "Commit to Care" Grant for **Support4Families**, a comprehensive program for childhood cancer patients and for children affected by a loved one diagnosed with cancer.

The Support4Families program offers a variety of opportunities for children and their families, all free of charge and led by trained mental health professionals. Such opportunities include individual and group support, social activities, educational workshops, health and wellness programming, and nutrition education and demonstrations. Support4Families will give these children the coping skills they need to recover from the direct or indirect effects of the disease—skills that will help them face challenges and solve problems throughout the rest of their lives.

To learn more about Cancer Support Community Central New Jersey, visit <https://cancersupportcnj.org>.

Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley's Sixth Street Shelter

was nominated by Antonia Estevez who works in Provident Bank's Allentown-Hamilton Street Branch. Antonia nominated the Community Action Committee because she believes in their mission to provide the opportunity and direction for all people to become self-sufficient, productive members of the community.

The "Commit to Care" Grant will support the essential services provided at the **Sixth Street Shelter**, aiding homeless families in finding temporary housing and helping to prepare them for the challenges of a difficult job and rental market. Shelter staff work to mitigate the effects of poverty and homelessness through its mission to help families set and reach their goals through intensive case management, in-house programming, and referrals to appropriate services. For many families, the 60- to 90-day stay enables them to begin to stabilize their income and address the problems that led to their homelessness.

Additionally, the Family Resource Center is designed to play a key role in helping families reach their goals by offering access to computers and a play area, complete with age-appropriate toys and games, for Shelter families to spend time with other parents and their children. Families get help with budgeting, résumé and cover letter writing, homework, appropriate housing searches, and assistance with general computer literacy and guidance with other life skills.

To learn more about the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, visit <https://caclv.org>.



Pictured (left to right): Chris Martin, Chairman, President & CEO of Provident Bank; Kristine Blasco, Director of the Sixth Street Shelter; Alan Jennings, Executive Director of Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; and Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Jersey

was nominated by Phil Newman of Provident Bank's North Brunswick Branch. Phil's wife is a school psychologist and director of Special Education for a public school district, and during her 36-year career in public education she has seen children saved by CASA.

CASA of NJ provides a voice for abused and neglected children by empowering a statewide network of county-based CASA programs. Working through community volunteers, these programs advocate for the best interests of children in foster care and other out-of-home placements to ensure their well-being and ultimate placement in safe and nurturing permanent homes.

With funding from the "Commit to Care" Grant, CASA of NJ will launch their **e-learning project**, a library of continuing education courses for CASA of NJ's nearly 2,000 volunteers. Utilizing a technology

platform will allow CASA of NJ to build interactive, online training seminars which can be accessed on a home computer or smart phone at any time. CASA of NJ strongly believes that an investment in e-learning will increase training compliance and make it engaging, stimulating, and impactful. Data collection and analysis performed during the project will define and identify learners' training and professional development needs and interests, demonstrate progress toward meeting selected goals and objectives, and provide evidence of learning and achievement of competencies.

To learn more about Court Appointed Special Advocates of New Jersey, visit <https://www.casaofnj.org>.



Pictured (left to right): April Aaronson, Executive Director of CASA of NJ; Chris Martin, Chairman, President & CEO of Provident Bank; Phil Newman of Provident Bank's North Brunswick Branch; John McHugh, Board President of CASA of NJ; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; and Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation.

CPC Behavioral Healthcare

was nominated by Ray Eckhoff of Provident Bank's Business Banking Department. In July of 2018, Ray assumed the role of Chairman of CPC's Board, on which he's served for the past 7 years. Over that time, Ray has served on the Golf Committee, chaired and served on the Benefit Committee, and is the chair of the Environment of Care Committee.

CPC seeks to close a transportation gap that impacts access to treatment services for adults with mental health conditions or substance use disorders who reside in the rural and suburban parts of Monmouth County where access to safe and reliable public transportation is limited, nonexistent, or cost-prohibitive.

Missing appointments places clients at risk for deterioration to their mental health, costly emergency services, hospitalizations, or even incarceration. The "Commit to Care" Grant will launch a **pilot transportation project** to provide an alternative mode of transportation to clients who do not have access to transportation. CPC will coordinate rides via Uber Health for clients who would otherwise miss essential appointments and programs due to lack of transportation. CPC projects that 360 clients will benefit from the transportation pilot project over the next year.

To learn more about CPC Behavioral Healthcare, visit <https://www.cpcbehavioral.org>.



Pictured (left to right): Chris Martin, Chairman, President & CEO of Provident Bank; Kerry Herbert, VP Development of CPC Behavioral Healthcare; Vera Sansone, President & CEO of CPC Behavioral Healthcare; Ray Eckhoff, of Provident Bank's Business Banking Department; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; and Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation.

MEET THE GRANTEES!



Pictured (left to right): Martiza Koslow, Clinical Director of Kidz Can Corporation; Chris Martin, Chairman, President & CEO of Provident Bank; Damon Koslow, Program Director of Kidz Can Corporation; Maria Torres of Provident Bank's Accounting Department; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation; and Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation.

Kidz Can Corporation was nominated by Maria Torres of Provident Bank's Accounting Department. As a volunteer, Maria has dedicated her time to supporting this organization. Over the past several years, Maria has collected school supplies and prepared holiday meals and gift baskets that have impacted the lives of nearly two dozen children and their families.

The mission of Kidz Can is to provide youth with an opportunity to reach their full potential by providing them with professional mental health counseling, social service assistance, and enrichment programs. Kids deserve a chance to build a solid future, and Kidz Can gives them the tools.

Kidz Can's **Highway to Hope** program provides mental health counseling to youth whose insurance benefits are exhausted or to those who do not have insurance benefits at all. Most youth are allotted an authorization period of 8-12 weeks by Medicaid to provide in-home counseling. This is rarely enough

time to address all of the issues a child may be facing, develop appropriate coping skills, and implement a transition plan. Highway to Hope extends counseling services beyond the authorization period to address these issues to prevent mental health service recidivism, which is very high in New Jersey.

Kidz Can's therapeutic services are provided directly in the home of the family, which allows the youth to be served in the least restrictive environment while also increasing family participation.

To learn more about Kidz Can Corporation, visit <http://www.kidzcan.org>.

Lions District 16-J Charitable Foundation

was nominated by Renee Parsons of Provident Bank's Deposit Services Department. Renee serves as the District 16-J Membership Chairperson. She has been involved with the organization for five years, helping to spread the organization's mission to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding.

The "Commit to Care" Grant will be used to **purchase five PlusOptiX Spot Vision Screeners** which are used to perform eye

screenings on people ages 6 months to 99 years, including individuals with limited language or literacy skills. Renee, in her nomination of the group, described the need for these types of screenings in the regions this Lions District serves. Renee herself has used these screeners at community events and remarked not only on how simple they are to operate, but at the accuracy of the results.

In addition to bringing them to community events, the Lions will loan the screeners to school nurses to identify treatable or preventable causes of eye defects or blindness in school-aged and pre-school-aged children. The goal is to fight undetected vision issues among children by providing free vision screenings so they can reach their full potential, and to facilitate corrective measures while the child is young.



Renee Parsons has been collecting used eyeglasses for the Lions Club at Metro Park since 2017. You can find collection boxes in the 3rd floor breakroom.

To learn more about Lions District 16-J Charitable Foundation, visit <https://www.e-district.org/sites/16j>.



Pictured (left to right): Chris Martin, Chairman, President & CEO of Provident Bank; Dawn Kosobucki, District Governor of Lions District 16-J; Elspeth Moore, Lions of New Jersey; Kevin Kosobucki, President of Lions District 16-J Charitable Foundation; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Renee Parsons of Provident Bank's Deposit Services Department; Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation; and Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation.

New Bethany Ministries

was nominated by Robert Price of Provident Bank's Commercial Lending Department and Richard Montalvo in Commercial Credit Underwriting. Robert is on the Board of Directors at New Bethany and has been in charge of their annual fundraiser called Souper Day, in addition to preparing breakfast through his church several times a year. Thanks to Robert's involvement and passion for the organization's mission, Richard began participating in activities that benefit New Bethany Ministries and its clients, including attending Souper Day and participating in an annual turkey drive hosted at Provident Bank's Madison Farms Branch in Bethlehem.

The Lehigh Valley has eight officially recognized food deserts, with two others recognized locally. For people living in these areas, nutritious food is neither readily available nor easily accessible, either because of distance from home or cost; food that is essential for survival and good health. That's where New Bethany Ministries comes in.

The "Commit to Care" Grant will be used to purchase equipment for their **choice food pantry**, including freezers, refrigerators, a food scale, and a product scanner and corresponding software to enter and manage inventory; necessary upgrades to ensure that fresh meats and produce are readily available, and that no food goes to waste. By making their pantry accessible and increasing the distribution of fresh foods, New Bethany will have a much greater impact on the health of those living in the Valley. In fact, they estimate that almost 3,000 people will visit the pantry and that they will impact more than 7,300 individuals in the first full year, an increase of 22%.

To learn more about New Bethany Ministries, visit <https://www.newbethanyministries.org>.



Pictured (left to right): Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; Joanne Anderson, Board Member of New Bethany Ministries; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation; Sandra Bieber, Director of Development & Communications of New Bethany Ministries; and Richard Montalvo of Provident Bank's Commercial Credit Underwriting.

North Jersey Friendship House

was nominated by Corinne Kison of Provident Bank's Corporate Cash Management Department. Corinne's brother, Reuel, has been attending North Jersey Friendship House's programs for the past 10 years. Their comprehensive programming, as well as the support he receives from his counselor, has provided relief to their family as it relates to sharing the responsibility of providing care and services for Reuel.

North Jersey Friendship House builds the skills of individuals with varying abilities and developmental needs by providing, within a safe haven, comprehensive clinical treatment, vocational training, and work opportunities in order to achieve meaningful and productive lives.

Funding from the "Commit to Care" Grant will allow North Jersey Friendship House to designate a **Group Counselor** to expand its daily evidence-based and wellness programs into the program's afternoon hours. The new programs will be diverse and incorporate components of illness management and recovery, cognitive behavioral therapy, and wellness recovery action planning. In addition to these programs, the counselor will offer wellness programs that teach chair yoga, exercise, stress management, and mindfulness. The goals of these therapies are for members to learn about mental illness and strategies to cope with mental illness, decrease members' symptoms, reduce members' relapses and re-hospitalizations, and help members make progress towards goals and recovery.

Corinne says, "North Jersey Friendship House is a place where everyone feels safe, and—despite their mental disabilities—has a chance at learning life skills, becoming productive members of society, experiencing acceptance and appreciation, and celebrating small victories."

To learn more about North Jersey Friendship House, visit <http://njfriendshiphouse.org>.



Pictured (left to right): Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; Corinne Kison of Provident Bank's Corporate Cash Management Department; Margaret Lenino, Executive Director of Clinical Services of North Jersey Friendship House; Harry Tuvel, Board Chairperson of North Jersey Friendship House; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; and Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation.

MEET THE GRANTEES!

Safe+Sound Somerset was nominated by Nicole Wisniewski of Provident Bank's PA/West Jersey Retail Banking Region. The organization, whose mission is to empower survivors of domestic abuse and engage the community to break the cycle of violence, was selected as the charity partner of the Somerset County Chapter of BW NICE (Business Women Networking, Involving Charity & Education) during Nicole's tenure as Chapter president. Nicole worked closely with the organization on a Mother's Day volunteer project, creating gift bags with donations of personal care items that were given out to the women served by Safe+Sound. The Chapter also raised \$10,000 for Safe+Sound at their inaugural Red Shoe luncheon and fashion show fundraiser.

Safe+Sound's pilot program **SPEAK: Antidote to Violence** will target pre-teens and teens in Bound Brook, NJ, with the ultimate goal of lowering rates of psychological, sexual, and moderate physical abuse perpetration and victimization among the participants by promoting healthy friendships and relationships. The program will increase awareness of and provide coping skills to deal with bullying, dating violence, and domestic abuse amongst pre-teens and teens and their parents. Instituting bullying prevention programs and teen dating abuse programs together as a means to combat high rates of domestic violence in a community is an innovative approach that the organization will be implementing.

The pilot program also includes the SPEAK Teen Leadership Conference through which Safe+Sound will reach the broader Somerset County and New Jersey communities. Students will leave the conference inspired and possessing the tools necessary to create healthy personal relationships and foster environments within their community where safety and respect can flourish.

To learn more about Safe+Sound Somerset, visit <https://www.safe-sound.org>.



Pictured (left to right): Kristin Cantwell, Director of Development & Communications of Safe+Sound Somerset; Michele Boronkas, Executive Director of Safe+Sound Somerset; Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; and Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation.



Pictured (left to right): Jane Kurek, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation; Lynn Hoffman, Executive Director of Tomorrows Children's Fund; Christopher Fallon of Tomorrows Children's Fund's Board of Directors; Karen McMullen, Member of The Provident Bank Foundation's Board of Directors; Charlie Dederding of Provident Bank's Accounting Department; and Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board of The Provident Bank Foundation.

Tomorrows Children's Fund (TCF) was nominated by Charles Dederding of Provident Bank's Accounting Department and Steven DeLuise of the Bank's Middle Market Lending Department. Charlie has a life-long friend who was served by TCF as a child and has proudly supported the organization and its impact for many years. Steve, who served for 12 years on the Steering Committee of TCF's Bergen Bike Tour event, believes in the mission of TCF, which is to create a warm, loving environment, while supporting the patient and their family and to alleviate the financial and emotional burden that comes with these diseases.

TCF's top priority is to ensure the families of pediatric cancer and blood disorder patients have the means to provide nutritious meals during their child's treatments.

When a child is diagnosed with cancer or a serious blood disorder, the course for treatment can range from a minimum of six months to a lifetime. Often, one of the parents must stop working in order to care for their child. The loss of an income is devastating and brings on a whole new set of financial needs. The "Commit to Care" Grant will support the organization's **Food Pantry and the Supermarket Gift Card program**.

The TCF Food Pantry has more than tripled in size in the last three years, serving 25-40 families on a weekly basis to sustain their family, fill in the gaps in their own pantry, or pick up a meal after a long clinic day. The Supermarket Gift Card Program provides a family with a minimum of six months support of \$100 per month in supermarket gift cards. This program enables families to purchase items they need and that TCF does not have the ability to provide at the Food Pantry, such as perishable goods.

To learn more about Tomorrows Children's Fund, visit <https://www.tcfkid.org>.

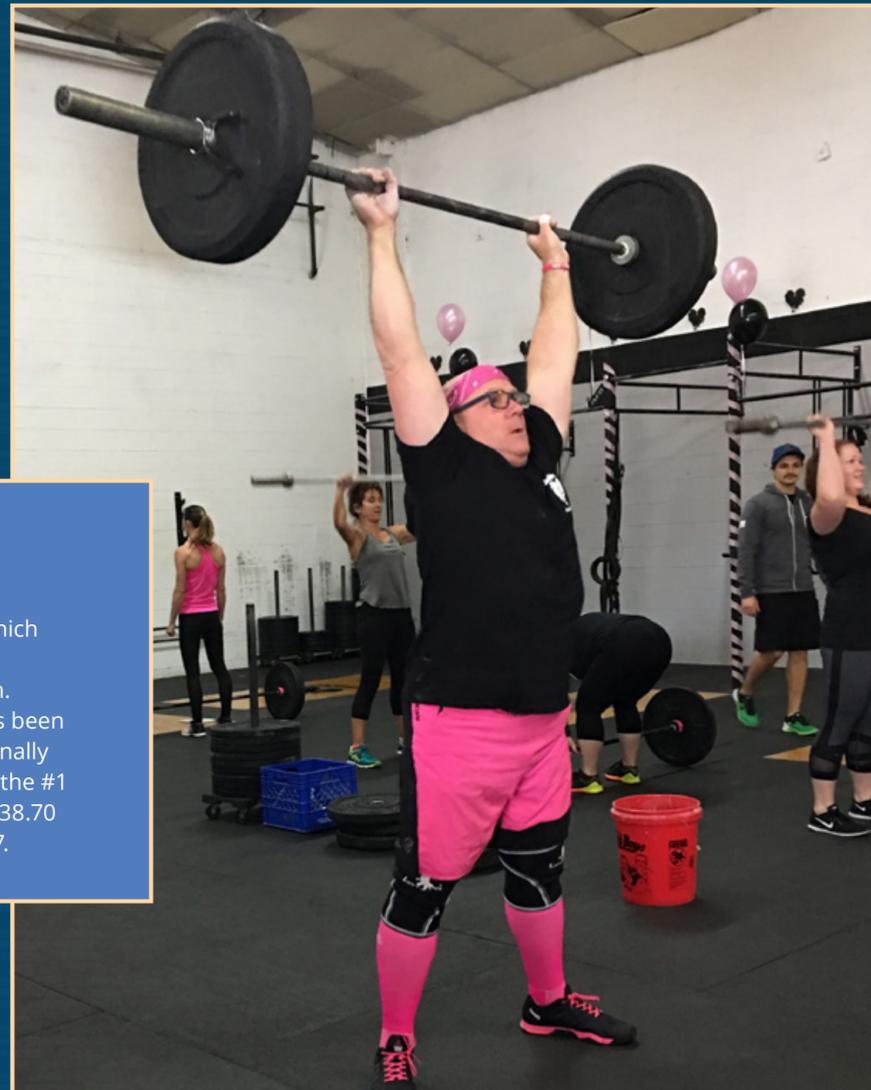
The “Commit to Care” Grants were established with the employees of Provident Bank and Beacon Trust in mind.

As a way to highlight employees’ community service and volunteerism, we included “employee engagement” in our scoring rubric for these special grants. Out of the 60 applications we received and reviewed, 19 received a perfect score of 20 for employee engagement. Here are some highlights from the employees’ nominations.

American Rescue Dog Corporation

Nominated by Al Giobbie, North Central Retail Banking Region

One of my employees, Aubrie Uellner, was passionately involved in this organization and introduced us to them through her volunteer work - she arranged several adoption days and fundraisers in our South Shore branches. Dear Aubrie passed away in 2012 at age 27 from cancer. Those of us who knew her and knew her deep love for this organization have continued to sponsor and attend fundraisers and remain active with ARD as a tribute to her. American Rescue Dog established a scholarship fund in 2013 in Aubrie’s honor and memory.



Barbells for Boobs

Nominated by Kevin Cullen, Commercial Credit Underwriting

Barbells for Boobs is closely linked to the CrossFit community, which is the exercise discipline I’ve been following since 2010. In 2012, I attended my first Barbells for Boobs fundraiser at a CrossFit gym. Since 2013, my gym, BlackHearts CrossFit in Port Reading, NJ, has been hosting an annual fundraiser. Over the past 5 years, I have personally raised \$43,087.01. In 2017, I raised \$16,104.43 and was ranked as the #1 Fundraiser – WORLDWIDE!!! Since 2013, my gym has raised \$92,738.70 and has been the NJ Fundraising Champion for 2015, 2016 & 2017.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest New Jersey

Nominated by Walter Sierotko, Commercial Real Estate Lending

I began with BGCNWNJ as an assistant coach for both my sons starting in 2004. Eventually, I coached travel basketball and helped with football fundraisers and equipment handouts. Then I was asked to join the BGCNWNJ Board of Directors in 2009. It was then that I realized this was not a sports club, that it was an important place for kids to learn, play and just be safe. Currently, I utilize my knowledge and skills in finance, planning and management on the Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and the Building Task Force. I am also active with fundraising solicitation.

The Craig School

Nominated by Andrea Lustig, Human Resources

I have been a member of The Craig School Board of Trustees for four years; serving as the Board Secretary for two years and serving as Chair of the Trustee Committee beginning this year. My involvement includes participation in meetings (Board, Committee, NJAIS), school events such as Grandfriends Day or the Chili Cook Off, and fundraising.

Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County

Nominated by Rhonda Silverman, Human Resources

I have been involved with Jewish Family Services for over 20 years as a volunteer delivering Meals on Wheels on Fridays to homebound seniors. I have also helped assemble and deliver food packages for the holidays to those in need. In one year, Jewish Family Services delivers approximately 28,000 Meals on Wheels and I am very proud to be a part of this program providing meals and socialization for homebound individuals.



Mountainside Restoration Committee Inc.

Nominated by Jason Pastore, Business Banking

My position on the Committee is Recording Secretary which involves preparing the agenda and minutes for our monthly board meetings. Additionally, I volunteer my time to help with our annual fundraisers and events.

New Jersey SEEDS Inc.

Nominated by Qianna White, Residential Lending

This non-profit organization is dear to me personally because my daughter is a NJ Seeds Scholar graduate (Class of 2014) and without this program my daughter would not have been afforded the opportunity to attend and graduate from her private boarding institution in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Once my child was accepted into NJ Seeds, they instantaneously became our extended family and vice versa. My daughter and I both volunteer with this program for various functions they hold throughout the year. In addition, I serve as an out-reach parent to the new parents who may have some insecurities and/or concerns regarding their children attending some of the best boarding schools in our nation. Although my daughter graduated from the program in 2014, I'm still involved with NJ Seeds to this day because of all of the extraordinary values this non-profit organization holds!

Power of One Christian Coaching & Outreach Ministries

Nominated by Christine Mathews, Parsippany Branch

I met Kim Castellano (President of Power of One) on August 7, 2012 (I remember the exact date) when she was cutting my mom's lawn. She makes you want to be a better person. We help her any chance we get, we pick up backpacks from drop off points, help fill the backpacks. Anything that she is doing we try to volunteer and help.

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity

Nominated by Greg Dittrich, North West Retail Banking Region

I am on a Habitat committee whose goal is to open a new ReStore which will sell donated goods to support housing projects. I assist in Marketing, Procurement, Planning and Design.

Rise Up Chorus

Nominated by Danielle Miyagishima, Compliance

I have been singing with this chorus since its onset and have participated in the two concerts that have taken place to date. The first concert was held for Veteran's Day 2017 at the New Jersey Veteran's Retirement Home in Edison and included music that showed appreciation for the armed forces. A snippet of each branch of the military's official song was sung and the audience was asked to join in when they heard their song. That was a very proud moment for me. The second concert was held for Black History Month 2018 at Christ Church in New Brunswick. Several well-known songs were sung and the audience joined in for what they were familiar with. The next concert is scheduled for the Metuchen June Bug 2018 at Metuchen High School. Many songs will be sung in various languages representing the diverse backgrounds of our members and our audience.

Wood Ridge Public Education Foundation

Nominated by Daniel Malaniak, Asset Recovery

I am a founding member of the Wood Ridge Public Education Foundation and was a Trustees. I now currently hold the position of Treasurer for the Foundation for the last 2 years.



Out of 104 nominations, 84 groups were invited to apply for the “Commit to Care” Grants.

Out of those 84, 60 completed the application—that meant the competition for these grants was steep! Choosing only 12 winners was no easy task for the Foundation’s Board of Directors. Here’s the list of organizations that applied along with the employees who nominated them.

- **Ability2Work** – nominated by Klyda Hutchins (PA/West Jersey Retail Banking Region), Karyn Fiedler (Flemington Branch), and Jacqueline Bradley (Clinton Branch)
- **Adult Day Center of the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills Inc.** – nominated by Nancy Wynant (Business Banking)
- ***Allaire Community Farm** – nominated by Gloria Szynal (Manasquan Branch)
- **Alzheimer’s New Jersey Inc.**
- **American Repertory Ballet** – nominated by Glenn Wolfson (Newtown Branch)
- **American Rescue Dog Corporation** – nominated by Al Giobbie (North Central Retail Banking Region)
- **AngelaCARES, Inc.** – nominated by Marla Williams (Lafayette Branch)
- ***The Arc of Union County** – nominated by Conor Gaynor (Healthcare Lending)
- **Barbells for Boobs** – nominated by Kevin M. Cullen (Commercial Credit Underwriting)
- **Boys and Girls Club of Northwest New Jersey** – nominated by Walter C. Sierotko (Commercial Real Estate Lending)
- ***Cancer Support Community Central New Jersey** – nominated by Sandra Kennedy (North West Retail Banking Region)
- **Celebrate The Children Inc.** – nominated by Michele Neshem (Madison Branch)
- **Center for Evaluation and Counseling Inc.**
- ***Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley** – nominated by Antonia Estevez (Allentown-Hamilton St. Branch)
- **Community Options Enterprises Inc.**
- ***Court Appointed Special Advocates of New Jersey, Inc.** – nominated by Phil Newman (North Brunswick Branch)
- ***CPC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.** – nominated by Ray Eckhoff (Business Banking)
- **The Craig School** – nominated by Andrea Lustig (Human Resources)
- **Family Connections Inc.** – nominated by Nadia Nedelcheva (Middle Market Lending)
- **Family Service Association of Bucks County** – nominated by Joseph Dieso (Newtown Branch)
- **Food Bank of Somerset County** – nominated by Stefan Hermann (Beacon Trust)
- **Goats of Anarchy Inc.** – nominated by Tracy Lester (Green Brook Branch)
- **Good Grief Inc.** – nominated by John Swadba (Credit Administration)
- **Hope Sheds Light** – nominated by Jose Fabrizio Orozco (Business Development-South Shore Region)
- **Hudson County Community College Foundation** – nominated by Nicholas Cavaluzzi (Main Office Branch)
- **Jewish Family & Vocational Service Of Middlesex County Inc.** – nominated by Rhonda Silverman (Human Resources)
- ***Kidz Can Corporation** – nominated by Maria Torres (Accounting)
- **Legacy Of A Hero The LCPL Chris Cosgrove III Foundation Inc.** – nominated by Misty Simony (Allentown-Tilghman Street Branch)
- ***Lions District 16-J Charitable Foundation** – nominated by Renee Parsons (Deposit Services)
- **Market Street Mission** – nominated by George Novak (Business Banking)
- **Mary’s Shelter** – nominated by Andree Hastoy Bluske (Allentown-Hamilton Street Branch)
- **Matheny Medical and Educational Center**
- **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center** – nominated by Josh Shelton (Commercial Real Estate)
- **Minette Grosso McKenna Angel Foundation Inc.** – nominated by Joan Regan (Roseland Branch)
- **Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc.** – nominated by Jason Pastore (Business Banking)
- **Neighbours Inc.** – nominated by Gabe Rosanio (North Central Retail Banking Region)
- ***New Bethany Ministries** – nominated by Robert Price (Commercial Lending-Lehigh Valley) and Richard Montalvo (Commercial Credit Underwriting)
- **New Jersey Community Capital**
- **New Jersey SEEDS** – nominated by Qianna White (Residential Lending)
- ***North Jersey Friendship House Inc.** – nominated by Corinne Kison (Corporate Cash Management)
- **Ocean Mental Health Services Inc.** – nominated by Stacey Kavanagh (Central/Shore Retail Banking Region)
- **Power Of One Christian Coaching And Outreach Ministries** – nominated by Christine Mathews (Parsippany Branch)
- **The Raptor Trust** – nominated by Sarina C. Buono (Clinton Branch)
- **Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity** – nominated by Greg Dittrich (North West Retail Banking Region)
- **Rebeka Verea Foundation** – nominated by Rebeca Peraza (West New York-55th Street Branch)
- **Renaissance Newark Foundation** – nominated by Michael Petrucci (North Central Retail Banking Region)
- **Rise Up Chorus** – nominated by Danielle Miyagishima (Compliance) and Danielle Miller (Compliance)
- **Rise Up Rockaway** – nominated by Isis Casanova (Denville Branch)
- **Rose House** – nominated by Dawn Scocco (Business Banking)
- ***Safe+Sound Somerset** – nominated by Nicole Wisniewski (PA/West Jersey Retail Banking Region)
- **Samaritan Homeless Interim Program** – nominated by Lisa Kautz (Business Banking)
- **The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children** – nominated by Louis Ruberton, Jr. (Loan Administration)
- **Sister2Sister**
- **Sisters Network Essex County** – nominated by Shawqui Walker (Loan Administration) and Wykita S. Sterling (Residential Lending)
- **Teach For America Inc.** – nominated by Erman Civelek (Beacon Trust)
- ***Tomorrows Children’s Fund Inc.** – nominated by Charles Dederding (Accounting) and Steven DeLuise (Middle Market Lending)
- **Travis Manion Foundation** – nominated by R. Bud Miller (Commercial Lending-PA Metro)
- **Vets4Warriors** – nominated by Cathy Karlsen (Flemington Branch)
- **Wood Ridge Public Education Foundation** – nominated by Daniel Malaniak (Commercial Real Estate)
- **YMCA of Plainfield**

* = “Commit to Care” grant winner



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