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NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2023



A Message from Commissioner Adelman

Season's greetings,

As 2023 comes to a close, we would like to extend our gratitude and warmest wishes to our provider, government and community partners who work year-round to ensure our

programs and services reach individuals and families across New Jersey.

Together, we achieved a lot this year. We provided life-enhancing services to millions of New Jerseyans.

We became the first (and are still the only) state to increase monthly SNAP food and nutrition assistance benefits because no one should go hungry.

We launched Naloxone 365 and [StopOverdosesNJ.com](https://www.stopoverdosesnj.com) to save lives and get the opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone into as many hands and medicine cabinets as possible.

Through our Cover All Kids initiative we expanded NJ FamilyCare to eligible children regardless of their immigration status, because investing in children's health pays dividends over their lifetime.

To help meet workforce needs we launched the [Jobs That Care New Jersey](https://www.jobsforcare.com) website to highlight job opportunities in the care economy and link job seekers with prospective employers.

And these are just a few of the milestones we reached together in 2023! As we welcome the new year, we look forward to continued collaboration and exciting opportunities to do more for those we serve.

Warmest holiday wishes to all,
Commissioner Sarah Adelman

NJ Human Services Season of Giving





Commissioner Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Staff Jon Chebra and various DHS staff were honored to volunteer at the [Community FoodBank of New Jersey](#) in Egg Harbor Township and the [Rise Food Pantry](#) in Hightstown as part of Human Service's Season of Giving campaign.

“A Forward Thinking Framework for an Age Friendly New Jersey”



Assistant Commissioner Louise Rush (center) discussed the Department's efforts to make New Jersey an Age-Friendly State, and progress toward expanding the [PACE program](#) statewide during the “A Forward Thinking Framework for an

Age Friendly New Jersey” conference hosted by
[New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute](#).

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is an innovative Medicare program for individuals 55+ that helps delay or avoid long-term nursing home care.

Learn more [here](#).

Human Services Police "Shop with a Hero" Event





NJ Human Services Officers Rivera and Torres participated in the “Shop with a Hero” event along with countless officers from the Atlantic County area. Each officer was assigned one child to shop with during the event. Both officers used their own money to add to the allotted budget for additional gifts.

New Lisbon Developmental Center Winter Wonderland Party

Deputy Commissioner for Aging and Disability Services Kaylee McGuire (center), [Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried (third from left), Chief of Staff Jon Chebra (second from left) and Policy Advisor Jack Teters (left) joined New Lisbon Developmental Center CEO Kacie Polidoro (right), staff and residents for their Winter Wonderland party.



**Human Services Police Force
Charitable Campaign Success**



[Human Services police](#) officers took part in multiple charitable events to raise money and awareness for several important campaigns. They successfully raised a total of \$3,280 for Breast Cancer Awareness, Prostate Cancer Awareness and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services' "Toys for Tots" event.

Congratulations to the Newest Human Services Police Officers



The [Human Services Police](#) added three new officers to their ranks.

Officer Bihuniak (second from right),

Officer Guzzi (not present) and Officer Owens (not present) successfully
completed the Essex County Police Academy Class 23-2.

Pathways to Preparedness Trainings



The Office of Emergency Management team conducted a Pathways to Preparedness training at the NJ Blind Citizens Association in Monmouth County. The training is provided at no cost, and is designed to provide disaster preparedness information especially for those who may have a disability or some type of access and functional need. To schedule a training, contact the Department's Office of Emergency Management at 609-631-4363 or eocesf6@njsp.gov

World AIDS Day



International Day of Persons with Disabilities



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF Persons with Disabilities

December 3



The [Division of Disability Services](#) works to streamline access to services and information that promote and enhance independent living for individuals with all disabilities. Learn more [here](#).

Human Rights Day



Drunk Driving Awareness Month



DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

In memory of the victims of drunk driving

Addiction help is available. ATLAS is a free tool for NJ residents to find treatment options & providers.

Try a confidential assessment here: TreatmentATLAS.org

SPOTLIGHTS ON NJ HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS



Mental Health Hotlines and Helplines

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

9-8-8

NJMentalHealthCares Helpline

1-866-202-HELP

**ACCESS American Sign Language and
Videophone Helpline**

973-870-0677

Assistance and Referrals to Addiction Treatment

1-844-ReachNJ

NJ Disaster Mental Health Helpline

877-294-HELP



The holidays can be a stressful time, but you are not alone. The 988 Lifeline provides one-on-one support from skilled, compassionate counselors 24/365. No judgement. Just help. Call or text 988, or chat at 988lifeline.org.

**The holiday season can be
difficult.**

We are here for you, 24/7.

Text 988 or chat with us online at
988lifeline.org/chat.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

[NJ SNAP](#) | [NJ FAMILYCARE](#) | [NJHELPS](#)

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