

Volunteer NJ!



Summer 2025

Celebrating Volunteerism!



Announcing 2025 HONOREES

We salute the New Jersey State Governor's Volunteerism Awards Honorees
and applaud their exemplary service to the communities they serve.

AMBASSADOR

Anna Move
Lila Bae
Scott Lawrence Pileckas
Avighna Shree Tirumala
Disha Varkala

ANIMAL WELFARE

Ioanna Varouhakis
Pamela Bolden
Shane Coyle
Nadira Dietz
Rose DiMeo
Sophia Gillen
Pelle Sandstrom
Nivita Thomas
Aily Wei

ARTS AND CULTURE

Aarav George
Isaac Ahn
Clementine Macri
Evangelina Pabalan

COMMUNITY PILLAR

Maria Montesinos
Simran Cheema
Lori Danko
Kuldeep Uppal
Kavinitha Venkatesh

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Wellpoint New Jersey

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE

Frank Mahood
Association of Black Women Lawyers of NJ Group
Kate Lee
National Coalition of 100 Black Women Bergen
Passaic Counties Group
Desiree Okonkwo
Ana Maria Placencia
Zainab Syed

EDUCATION

Teja Mareddy
Advait Baijural
Lily Berkery
Michael Carpino
Lisa Della Vecchia
Alice Golembio
Great Oaks Legacy Tutor Corps Group
David Jen
Prisha Kashvi
Stacey Mandel
Pages4Progress
Jamie Prioli

ELECTED OFFICIAL

Lana Brenan

EMERGENCY SERVICES/ FIRST RESPONDERS

Armando Aviles
Abdul Wadud Abbasi
Michael Blaha
Bruce Dobin
Arvita Kulkarni
Christopher Miller
Vincent Jr. Rubino
Sameer Sood

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Nithya Tammana
David Chen
Dr. Shri Narasahb Dhamadhikari Pratishthan
(DSNDP) Group
Elizabeth Gillen
Green Team of Concordia Group
Kerry Jennings
Samantha Murzenski
Ashritha Nayanala

FAITH-BASED SERVICES

Reverend Melissa Charlotte Hall
Ayaz Aslam
Sami Baig
Muhammad Kamran Hashmi
Victoria Niziol
Robert Van Eeuwen
Daniel Zhang

FEED THE HUNGRY

Zara Gilani
Veer Agarwal
Ellen & Walt Dombrowski
Feeding Hands Volunteers Group
Nolan Gabel
Judy Lansing
Shawnda Steed
Dean Zervos

FOUNDERS/INNOVATORS

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Emily Cho
Aidan Armenti
Francis DiCola
Melissa Dill
Spencer Chaisanguanthum
Eve Parrott
Amrav Kumarapuram
Jeremiah LaPorte
Jophy Lin
Chris Laveve
Ishika Ranka
Ajay Tolia

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Josephine Lee
Protect Pemberton
Anikait Sota
Xiang Li
Blisse Vakkalagadda

HEALTH CARE SERVICE

Stacy Kallman
Gary Berger
Dr. Patrick Fox
Margaret Havenor
Health Camp of New Jersey
Robert Malberti
Monmouth County Medical Reserve Corps
JoAnn Murphy
Anyia Nawrocky
Dr. Rupen Parikh
Diya Ranjan
Priscilla Rodriguez

HOUSE AND HOME

Team Exalt
Sarah Guzinski
Thomas Peculski
Madison Szumera

LIFETIME SERVICE

Clarence Joseph
Queen Johnson

NJ NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Cameron McKenzie
Central Jersey Chapter - Sewa International
ENGAGE NJ
Foster Grandparent Program Mercer Region
Foster Grandparent Program Newark Region
Foster Grandparent Program Paterson Region
Foster Grandparent Program Rahway Region
Larry Gray
Jessica Irish
PowerCorps Camden
Recovery Corps Group
Santa Velez

SERVICE BY/FOR ARMED SERVICE MEMBERS/VETERANS/MILITARY

Michael Soccol
Michael Boll
Sam Cain
Jason Clark
Laura Cortese
Dr Adam Hamawy
Jay Hunter
Kimberly Mullison
Regency @ Trotters Pointe Community

SERVICE THROUGH STEM

Tanvi Mareddy
Anusha Bansal
Landon Hoberman
Aditya Khurana
Sonia Leo
Xenaya Medina
Reeti Rout
Sindhu Suresh
Sharada Suresh
Avighna Shree Tirumala

SERVICE TO YOUTH

Jessica Shah
Ava Ansell
Haylie Billerman
Bridget Dudzlec
Reggie Miller
Michele Mitchell Scholarship Fund
Mahalakshmi Mopal
Philip Shevack
Forest Yang

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Ethan Yang
Shiven Bansal
Michelle Glover
Lt Alan Ford , PO Sean Castaneda, PO Luann Oliveira
Raychelle Jackson
Rippi Karda
Joseph Kempe
Montclair State Bonner Leader Program
Ina Qema
Rishi Shah

VOLUNTEER GROUP

Creature Comfort Pet Therapy Group
Greenwood Gardens Board of Trustees
Grace's Closet
Patch heART Works
National Programs Committee of the MLS Chapter
of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
SAVE
Savvy Giving by Design NJ

YOUTH IN SERVICE

Reese Titton
Tom Cui
Marin Gaslow
Ricky Gorka
Gurbaani Kakkar
Amy Lin
Esmeralda Savinon
Aadhya Shukla
Advay Shukla
Arind Sinani
Miranda Toner

YOUTH VOLUNTEER GROUP

STEP For A Better World LEO Club Group
Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States
(AYLUS) Morris Branch
Charity Crossing Group
Engrave Group
NJCTS Youth Council
Seth Boyden Elementary School Composting and
Pantry Program Group
St. Philip Neri Club

Names in bold indicate medallists.

Program Administered By:



NJ Governor's
Office of Volunteerism

NEW JERSEY
STRONG



Learn more and nominate a volunteer today
njgovernorsawards.com

Program Sponsor:



AmeriHealth

On Sunday, June 22nd, nearly 200 individuals and groups were celebrated during a livestreamed ceremony honoring some of NJ's very best volunteers.

The livestream is available now and can be shared and viewed at any time. The beginning of the stream features a slideshow of photos showcasing honorees performing acts of volunteerism and community service.

Honorees of the New Jersey State Governor's Volunteerism Award achieve measurable community impact and represent outstanding acts of public service, without the expectation of recognition or compensations.

Recipients demonstrate unique vision, dedication and tenacity of heroic proportion and serve as inspiration for others.

Of the honorees awarded, a select few were honored with a NJ State Governor's Volunteerism Medallion during the ceremony. **Photos from the event are available on our website.**

A special shout out to our sponsor **AmeriHealth** and our event partners: **DFX Sound and Vision, Goodkat Productions, Grounds for Sculpture, Russ DeSantis, Thomas Fanelli**, our dedicated volunteer **Awards Judges**, and our amazing event volunteers!

For more information contact Heather Tedesco Pasquale
heather.tedesco@sos.nj.gov

NJ Volunteer Opportunities

Arts and Crafts Volunteer

8/16/25 General Volunteer Day

Drive for Good: Deliver Meals to Those in Need
(Edison to New Brunswick)

NJ Volunteer Training for Grief Camp

Weekly Volunteer Gardening - Saturdays 10 AM-1 PM

Senior Trail Crew

Med Team Needed for Surgical Mission Trip

Our Living Proof Recovery Centers

Landscaping Support

Kids Club Camp Volunteers

Reflections InterACTIVE Summer Experience for Teens

Ongoing Food Bank Volunteer

Book Buddies

Closter Nature Center Greeters

Food Bank of South Jersey

Special Event - Fireflies and Faeries

Looking for a specific volunteer opportunity?
Visit our Volunteer Hub

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|  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Cheryl Djan Rutgers University, New Brunswick Technology High School Newark</p> |  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Nathaniel Esubonteng Stanford University Science Park High School</p> |  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Aydan Howell Widener University Middle Township High School</p> |
|  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Braylie LaFisca Chestnut Hill College Allentown High School</p> |  <p>MEET THE 2025 NEW JERSEY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION SCHOLARS</p> |  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Emily Laing Rutgers University, New Brunswick Neptune High School</p> |
|  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Lisandro Moron Blanco Saint Peters University José Martí Steam Academy</p> | |  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Nysalee Rosa Kean University Newark School of Global Studies</p> |
|  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Jeremy Shore University of Southern California Cherry Hill High School East</p> |  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Marco Vilet TBD Technology High School</p> |  <p>MLK25 SCHOLAR: Alexia Zambito University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Holmdel High School</p> |

Volunteerism Spotlight: Strike Out Hunger

United Way of Greater Mercer County



Strike Out Hunger is a multi-prong initiative that unites companies, individuals, and advocates to alleviate hunger in Mercer County. The United Way estimates that there were already over 61,000 local families struggling to make ends meet and to put food on their table*, and since the pandemic this number has exponentially increased. Strike Out Hunger provides meals, fresh produce, and non-perishables to the food bank and food pantry beneficiaries, especially during the summer months when food becomes even more scarce for households in our community.

With the assistance of volunteers, Strike Out Hunger will provide meals through our signature meal packing event; harvest and distribute fresh produce; collect non-perishable food; deliver food pantry packages directly to the homes of those who have mobility issues. This year to ensure that local food pantry shelves are stocked with culturally relevant food items we

initiated 'Flavors of the Community' a guide to culturally relevant food items so people of all cultures have access to familiar foods, flavors and spices. SOH also includes accessing supplemental income that can be used for basic needs through our Free Tax Preparation program (VITA) and our Benefit Access program.

***Source: United Way NJ ALICE Report 2023 & Feeding America 2020**

Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight

Join Travelers Aid at Newark Airport!

Travelers Aid-EWR is a volunteer-powered nonprofit dedicated to welcoming and assisting passengers at Newark Liberty International Airport. With a warm smile, our trained volunteers provide information, support, and care to travelers from around the world. Shifts are available Monday–Friday, 10am–6pm. Volunteers ages 15+ are welcome!

Learn more:

- ☐ [973-623-5052](tel:973-623-5052)
- ☐ newarkinfo@travelersaid.org
- ☐ travelersaid.org/newark/want-to-help/volunteer



NJ Governor's Office of Volunteerism
609-633-9627
VolunteerNJ@sos.nj.gov
www.volunteerism.nj.gov

Connect with us



The New Jersey Governor's Office of Volunteerism (NJGOV), operating within the New Jersey Department of State, supports NJ's 1.9 million volunteers with training and recognition while matching community needs in partnership with volunteer centers, disaster response organizations, business volunteers, schools, colleges, faith-based organizations and community organizations.

Governor's Office of Volunteerism, NJ DOS | PO Box 456 | Trenton, NJ 08625 US

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