

Name of Project: PAAC 2024

Name of Organization: Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF)

ABOUT US

“One People, One Heart” - The JRF is committed to helping our communities become healthier and stronger. We believe in changing lives by creating hope and self-sufficiency, and we succeed by providing essential health and human services, community development and youth programs. Our life-improving services extend across all cultures and faiths, regardless of economic status. The JRF serves as both a federally designated **Community Action Agency** administering a range of anti-poverty programs and a **Federally Qualified Health Center** providing primary care to those who have limited access to health care.

ABOUT PAAC

The Perth Amboy Alliance for Community (PAAC) is a growing group of neighbors, agencies, educators, and small businesses who have worked together for the last 15 years to help make positive changes. Our original neighborhood plan, completed in 2008, and has served as a blueprint to support the residents of the PAAC Neighborhood. Since then, PAAC has made a lasting impact. Much has been achieved including the creation of the PAAC Neighborhood Association, beautiful community gardens, housing rehabilitation, small business support, dozens of economic development programs, and the totally transformed Francis Street Park and Water Stadium Park.

Funding Requested: \$1,000,000

Municipality: Perth Amboy

Neighborhood: PAAC Neighborhood

Organization's Website: www.jrfnj.org

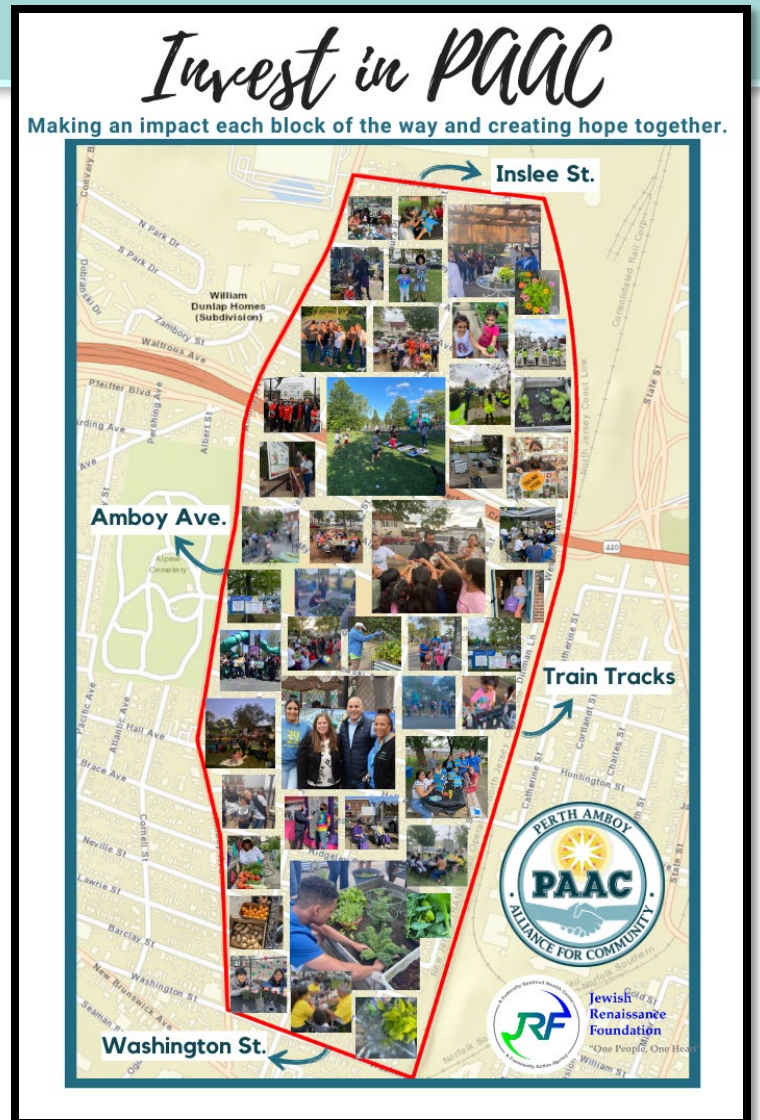
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In 2022, PAAC received approval from NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for our 2nd 10-year plan. Although we have made great strides, our revitalization effort is a long-term commitment. This year we added additional innovative activities that will not only help to address the areas of distress that continue in our neighborhood, but also attract additional investments to support neighborhood initiatives.

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: Neighborhood Plan Goal #3: Enhance services and service delivery in the PAAC Neighborhood by fostering greater collaboration, providing new forums for information, and broadening the range of services provided.



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(1) Leadership, Entrepreneurship Achievement Program:

The Leadership and Entrepreneurship Achievement Program (LEAP) provides high school students with two types of experiences in partnership with the School Based Youth Services (SBYS) Program and the StepUp Program. They develop leadership skills, practical education, and training in entrepreneurial practice under an umbrella design. As a next step, we partner with Middlesex College and many of our students' transition to the Success Bound Program where they are introduced to college experiences early on in their high school journey. These experiences include taking free college classes for credit and gaining real world work experience in paid internships. At the heart of LEAP is motivating our students to make a positive difference, improving

the communities in which they live, positioning them to discover their innate gifts, use their creativity to succeed and increase their earning potential therefore reducing the likelihood of living in poverty.

Emerging Leaders for a Healthier Community (EL): This program provides youth with direct experience in community health and the opportunity to make lasting change. Youth are fully immersed in a health education and a service-learning institute to develop a plan of action addressing the state of health in the community. After developing their strategy during the school year, the EL's spend the summer putting their plans into action while earning summer stipend pay.

Youth Entrepreneurship (YEP): YEP focuses on preparing students to start their own micro-enterprises. We partner with the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) to provide a comprehensive experience for our teens. Through experimental, project-based learning, students develop crucial entrepreneurial skills. YEP, is a key economic development component, as NFTE reports that 1 in 4 graduates start a business. In addition, NFTE found providing this training helps increase a student's salary by 50% as compared to their peers.

Neighborhood Plan Goal #2: Encourage greater economic opportunity for residents & businesses in the neighborhood **AND Neighborhood Plan Goal #4:** Promote a clean, safe, and healthy neighborhood.

(2) Small Business Support & Development: Through a dedicated PAAC Team, support for our small businesses focuses on providing workshops, general business management, and clarity on available resources. We will, if needed, help complete applications and paperwork. We are working to establish a small business support center for businesses that will include access to SkillUp Middlesex with our City and Middlesex County WDB partners. We will offer improvement and emergency assistance grants, PerthAmboyEats website registrations and provide small



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startup grants for our YEP students to increase earning potential and reduce the likelihood of experiencing poverty.

- (3) **Resident & Family Empowerment:** PAAC offers a variety of inclusive, diverse, and equitable initiatives that prioritize opportunities for educational and job advancement as well as asset stabilization. New for this year, we will build a ***Family Leadership Institute (FLI)** - This will be a whole family approach offering education and experiences for families with the goal of achieving economic success including increasing their savings with a PAAC match. A core group of 10 committed families will participate in a 6-month academy focusing on essential information around finance including Financial Peace, public system navigation, creating supportive neighborhood networks, and leadership among others. Each family will identify their priority goals leading them closer to achieving economic success by increasing savings and reducing the likelihood of experiencing poverty. ***Language Cafes** - Over 60% of residents



in the PAAC Neighborhood speak limited English. As a result, they experience the highest unemployment rate, lowest rate of full-time employment, and lowest median earnings. In partnership with Middlesex College, we conduct “Language Cafes” helping Spanish speakers learn English. Our residents obtain English language survival skills, improve their job prospects, attend higher education classes, and participate more actively in the community. ***Job Training** – We have learned that providing opportunities to be licensed, certified or earn a diploma helps to generate better employment opportunities. Through the JRF Training

& Testing Center (T&TC), our DOL approved Private Career School (PCS) and our Alternative Education Institute (AEI) we offer instruction to obtain a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma and provide the test. Through our T&TC we will continue to expand our in-demand offerings while also providing the testing. ***Career Enrichment** - In partnership with the Middlesex County Workforce Development Board, we are working to become a SkillUp Middlesex site, an innovative approach to workforce development. This online learning platform offers over 4,500 courses. Many of the courses lead to industry-recognized certifications. In addition, PAAC supports the yearly Career Fair in partnership with the City of Perth Amboy, Middlesex College, and PARTNER.

Neighborhood Plan Goal #1: Build a better neighborhood by improving recreation, infrastructure, housing, & community activities.

- (4) **Neighborhood Repair Program:** In collaboration with **Morris**



Habitat for Humanity, we will offer major and minor home repairs necessary for restoring and maintaining safe and healthy living conditions and preserving home values for 30 neighborhood properties. Volunteer teams will work under the direction of Habitat staff and volunteer supervisors to complete the repairs. We will also assist in facilitating Morris Habitat’s “A Brush with Kindness” initiative, which will help PAAC residents with minor repairs, maintenance, painting, and landscaping or streetscaping. Projects are typically small but tend to deliver maximum impact in the look and feel of the neighborhood. In addition, through our partnership, we offer one paid internship experience in one of the many trades central to the work of Morris Habitat for Humanity.

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SUPPORTIVE SERVICES: Neighborhood Plan Goal #4: Promote a clean, safe, and healthy neighborhood
AND Neighborhood Plan Goal #5: Continue to build neighborhood collaborations, enhance human capital, and facilitate neighborhood transformation.

(5) **PAAC Neighborhood Association (PNA):** The PNA has become pivotal in creating change. This group of homeowners, renters, business owners, school faculty/staff and church officials from the neighborhood are responsible for identifying and addressing challenges and concerns. Through the PNA we hold community meetings, offer programming, and organize neighborhood cleanups. As a result of the connection to their neighbors and their network, residents will increase their employability, and reduce the likelihood of experiencing poverty. In addition, we will leverage NRTC funds to obtain another 3 grants to help with additional support.



- **Community Garden:** We have a newly renovated community garden with the assistance of NRTC and Home Depot. We are looking to add an additional garden to reduce the impact of food deserts in the neighborhood. Our garden has been a source of comfort during this pandemic.
- **Thursday Nights @ the Park:** Several Thursday evenings during the summer, residents are encouraged to come out to the Francis Street Park and our newly renovated Water Stadium Park between 6-9pm for Movies under the Stars, concerts, talent shows, arts & crafts and much more. It helps residents get to know each other, creating opportunities for children to play and socialize. It also provides a forum to distribute the Neighborhood Newsletter.
- **Healthy Lifestyle Programing:** In an effort to provide programs in the neighborhood, we will conduct monthly nutrition/healthy living workshops for residents and provide programming for our seniors through the Senior Wellness Club. In addition, we will provide health screenings and vital information through our JRF CHC Mobile Health van.



CONNECT WITH US!
¡CONÉCTATE CON NOSOTROS!



Summer Events

JOIN IN ON THE COMMUNITY FUN!

PAAC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
(ASOCIACIÓN DE VECINOS PAAC REUNIONES)
JUNE 28, 2023 / 28 DE JUNIO
6:00-7:00PM / VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 / 27 DE SEPTIEMBRE
6:00-7:00PM / VIA ZOOM
SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE
(DESAFÍO DE REDES SOCIALES)
10 DAY WELLNESS CHALLENGE
(RETO DE BIENESTAR DE 10 DÍAS)
JULY 18-27, 2023 / 18-27 DE JULIO
VIA FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

THURSDAY NIGHTS IN THE PARK

PAAC SUMMER BASH
(FIESTA DE VERANO DE PAAC)
JUNE 29, 2023 / 29 DE JUNIO
5:00-7:00 PM
FRANCIS STREET PARK

PAAC FIELD DAY
(PAAC DIA DE JUEGO)
JULY 13, 2023 / 13 DE JULIO
5:00 PM
FRANCIS STREET PARK

IN THE PAAC MOOD
(EN EL ESTADO DE PAAC)
JULY 27, 2023 / 27 DE JULIO
5:00 PM
WATER STADIUM PARK
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

PAAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
(TORNEO DE BALONCESTO PAAC)
AUGUST 10, 2023 / 10 DE AGOSTO
5:00 PM
FRANCIS STREET PARK

PAAC SPELLING BEE & MAGIC SHOW
(CONCURSO DE DELETRAR & SHOW DE MAGIA PAAC)
AUGUST 24, 2023 / 24 DE AGOSTO
5:00 PM
FRANCIS STREET PARK

PAAC MOVIE NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 / 7 DE SEPTIEMBRE
7:30 PM
FRANCIS STREET PARK

Perth Amboy Alliance for Community

IT'S A PAAC SUMMER!

