

SUMMER 2021 EDITION

The Official Newsletter of The Jewish Renaissance Foundation

June Marks Men's Health Awareness Month * July Marks Social Wellness Month

August Marks National Back to School Month

JRF Staff and AmeriCorps Meeting & Barbecue at the PAAC Garden

JRF Staff and AmeriCorps members gathered for food and good times at a Barbecue hosted by the JRF in the JRF PAAC Garden on June 2, 2021. The gathering marked the first in person event for the entire JRF Staff since the onset of the pandemic. The afternoon was filled with good food and fun introductions, and for much of the JRF Staff and AmeriCorps Members, it was the first time they met one another in person. Ana Camila, a two term AmeriCorps member said "seeing everyone in person for the first time was truly amazing...I look forward to all the community events coming our way."



"Reunited and it felt so good", that's how I would describe today's event. After almost 15 months of not seeing each other in person, and only connecting through zooms, emails, and phone calls...it was hard, but we made it work! Never been so proud to be part of this resilient team of men and women, who amidst these difficult times, stood strong and continued to carry our mission to serve our community! Thank you for all you do for our community, for our participants and patients, and for each other and the agency!"

-Grace Co-Ortega, CFO/Interim CEO

The JRF Main Office Has a New Home



After approximately 20 years in Perth Amboy, the main office of the JRF has relocated but our programs and services we offer continue to be in the heart of Perth Amboy, serving our residents and our students! Don't be a stranger and be sure to stop by and check out the new office (and remember...don't forget your mask!).

New location:

1090 King Georges Post Road
Building 7, Suite 704
Edison, NJ 08837

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT WWW.JRFNJ.ORG



EXECUTIVE SEARCH:

JRF Seeks a Chief Executive Officer to serve our community and lead our amazing team! Visit our website at www.jrfnj.org for full Position Profile.

Social Services:

- Mental Health Counselor
- Youth Development Specialist
- Volunteer and Community Partnership Coordinator, FSC
- LEAP Program Coordinator
- Accountant

JRF Community Health Center:

- Certified Dental Assistant
- Certified Medical Assistant
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Patient Registrar

EMERGING LEADERS

Cleaning the Community



This summer the Emerging Leaders, participated in the city-wide Earth Day Clean up. Starting bright and early in the morning, the Emerging Leaders assisted with set-up and volunteer registration at the Brighton Ave Community Center. Along with over 75 other volunteers, the Emerging Leaders walked along Sadowski Parkway and collected 3 garbage full bags of litter.

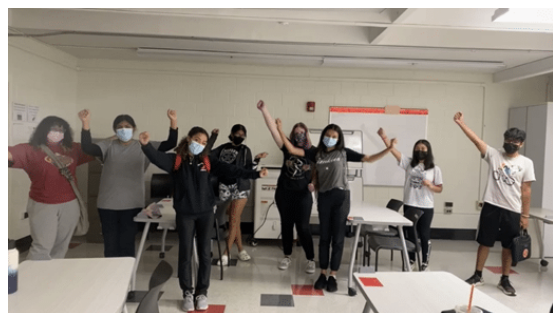
The Emerging Leaders also volunteered in the City of Perth Amboy's and YMCA's hot meal distribution event in May, distributing over 50 meals to community residents and providing additional support to the YMCA staff.

On Saturday, June 26th, nine (9) Emerging Leaders, two (2) AmeriCorps members, Program Coordinator, and Program Director participated in a paint party at Artist People in East Brunswick, NJ. During the two-hour painting event, the participants put their artistic "berets" on and painted a peaceful sunset and lighthouse. This was a great team bonding experience as it was the first time since November 2020 that the Emerging Leaders were able to meet in person.

Meet the Artists!



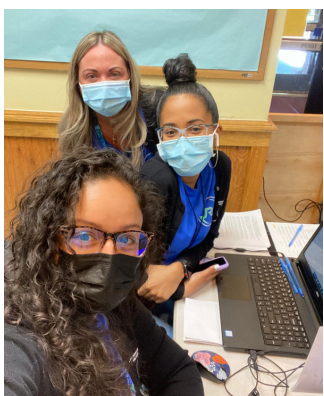
On Tuesday, July 6th, cohort four of the Emerging Leaders program officially started their 6-week summer institute. Although it felt like a long time to arrive to this date, the Emerging Leaders were eagerly prepared and ready to tackle their health issues: stress management and Covid-19 awareness.



JRF BIRTHDAYS!

- GREG NELMS 6/22
- DR. IRINA ZELIKSON 7/1
- JANELLE-MARIE SONSLADEK 7/4
- YENG SHAO 7/7
- NATASHA JAMES-WALDON 7/8
- SHERRI GOLDBERG 7/20
- KAYLA RODRIGUEZ 7/26
- ERIDANIA SUERO 8/3
- VERONICA MENDEZ 8/4
- EMELY DEJESUS 8/9
- STEFANIE LUNA 8/20

JRF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



The JRF Community Health Center, in partnership with the Township of Edison/Local OEM, held a COVID vaccine clinic on May 12th and May 26th. Appointments were preferred, however walk-ins were accepted.

Although there has been a decrease in the demand for the vaccine, we recognize that once Moderna expands the age requirement and boosters are needed, the JRF Community Health Center will continue to work with residing communities to provide future vaccine clinics as they are needed.

If you or someone you know is still in need of the Covid-19 vaccine, needs to get Covid-19 tested or has general questions, please reach out to us at 732-482-9600.

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT WWW.JRFNJ.ORG



1090 King Georges Post Road
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Edison, NJ 08837
Phone: (732) 324-2114

Join Us on Social Media
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Instagram @jrfwantsyoutoknow
Twitter @OnePPLOneHeart

FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER (FSC)



RECAP OF FSC EVENTS:

- [FSC Grow Your Own Pizza Garden:](#) Participants planted all the herbs they'll need to make their own pizza. 8.12.21
- [FSC It's International Friendship Day! Let's Make Origami:](#) Celebrating international friendship day by taking part in our very first Origami Class. 7.29.21
- [FSC Outdoor Science-Petal Bomb Art:](#) A parent child activity. great fun filled art class incorporating real flowers! 7.22.21
- [FSC Let's Cook Together!](#) collaboration with Community Food Bank of NJ- SNAP program to create a tasty healthy recipe. It's a parent child activity! 7.20.21

Painting with Dad!



The Bayside Family Success Center (FSC) creatively celebrated Father's Day virtually during the month of June 2021. We delivered all the materials to registered families so they could create birdhouses with their dad's/ father figures in the comfort of their homes. AmeriCorps Volunteers delivered activity kits to families living in Perth Amboy and those living further picked up their kits. Over 20 families participated and everyone enjoyed spending quality time in recognition of Father's Day.

The Bayside Family Success Center (FSC) welcomed July with excitement we welcomed the new programming year. July focused on Wellness and it was the first we hosted activities in person. We offered two Zumba classes during the month where social distancing measures were in place to ensure everyone's safety. Over 15 participants participated and this event served as pathway back to normalcy as we slowly begin to offer programming in person. ***They have one more class scheduled for August 24. Must register to secure your spot.***



Follow the Bayside FSC on Facebook: facebook.com/baysidefsc to learn all about their upcoming virtual programming. You can also email them at Baysidefsc@jrfnj.org to register. The summer has been focused on Wellness and a Summer Self Care Challenge, inclusive of great prizes and all!!

More details to follow regarding FSC's August events in the next edition, including:

- One Stop Shop! Diapers, Formula and Other Essentials and Vaccines too: Special thanks to Anshe Community Development Corporation and the Rutgers School of Nursing students for coming out and joining us in our common goal of community impact.
- Back to School Book Bag Give Away: Thanks to a sponsorship from Horizon, the Bayside FSC provided free book-bags and school supplies to families in Perth Amboy!

Seeing the *Silver* Lining Through PAAC

As the month of June concluded, the JRF said goodbye to the Silver Linings program, as senior programming moved under the PAAC Program, and will now be known as our "Senior Wellness Program". "My Choice Store" food delivery will continue until able to transition this initiative back to in person. It has been an honor to work with our amazing seniors and we know PAAC will host some great activities moving forward.

A message from our team:

"...[W]e want to express our sincere gratitude to all the participants, AmeriCorps Members, Volunteers and Partners for their support. Our goal at Silver Linings was to help seniors with resources and food insecurity while providing activities and programming for a healthier lifestyle. Thank you again for your commitment to our Silver Linings program and we wish our senior community a great summer."



THE BASE (SBYSP)

In the month of June we received the amazing news that our Perth Amboy High School student from the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), Karissa Rodriguez, won second place in the **NFTE North East Regional Competition**, and will be moving forward to the National Competition. Karissa's invention is an app called SIDEKICK which is geared towards supporting victims of domestic violence, and sexual assault. Additionally, Regional Winner and National Runner Up from last year, Charlize Leon (a current Junior at Perth Amboy High School), won the IEY 2021 Entrepreneur of the Year Scholarship Award. The hard work of both Karissa and Charlize definitely paid off.

The JRF is very proud of all our YEP students! In the month of May, the program initially found out that three of our Perth Amboy High School students from YEP made it to the semi-final (top 13) in the competition. The students from YEP worked extremely hard over the past months, and it showed with how far they made it in the competition. This program is facilitated by our Program Assistant, Precious Ojeda, who has done an incredibly amazing job supporting our students in this process.



Saying Good-bye

On June 11, the Base hosted an ice cream social called, **"What's the Scoop?"** Students enjoyed each other's company while enjoying some delicious ice cream by the Bayview Creamery in Perth Amboy. All students were able to share their experiences with this school year and what their plans are for after high school.

Also in June, the program had one of its most important events of the school year, their **"Senior Bye-B-Que"**. This event was filled with fun games, food and prizes. It was gratifying to see the students have fun together after being in a virtual platform for a year and a half. This event was our goodbye to the class of 2021 and a celebration of all their achievements over the last four years.

Anti-Poverty Youth Summit



In the month July, Step-Up and SBYSP combined with Middlesex College's Success Bound Program to offer the 5th Anti-Poverty Youth Summit Program. Students have been working on developing Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about Poverty and Education. Students had the opportunity to learn from guest speakers from Middlesex County College, Make the Road NJ, Advocates for Children of NJ, and New Jersey Citizen Action. This program has also helped its students enhance their team and social skills through several team building activities that promote healthy youth development.

STEP-UP

Senior Celebration at PAAC Garden - June 18th, 2021

To say good-bye to the Class of 2021, STEP UP hosted a Senior Celebration at the PAAC Garden for the AUL students. The senior students received a certificate of appreciation and Walmart gift cards. The celebration included food and games to send them off on their journey in life after high school. The students that participated committed to Williams College, Middlesex County College, New Jersey Institute Of Technology, and Kean University.



Paint and Sip: Mother's Edition -- May 7th, 2021

On Friday, May 7th, STEP UP and The Base partnered up to offer an event via zoom for students to participate and share their artistic talents with their mothers. A professional painter hosted the event and taught step by step painting. The intent of the event was to create a memorable space for students to enjoy an activity with their mothers for Mother's Day.

Talent Show -- May 19th, 2021

STEP UP and The Base hosted their first Talent Show for both programs. Through this event the goal was to bring out the creativity from the programs' participants and to recognize their talents even in this virtual world. They had a total of five submissions and three prizes!

Mental Health Workshop -- May 24th, 2021

To commemorate Mental Health Awareness Month in May and to help students understand more about themselves, STEP UP offered a workshop to educate them on the importance of mental health and disprove misconceptions. Students were able to find out through an activity their personality types and understand their strengths and weaknesses. The presentation also explained the ten personality disorders according to the DMS-5 and had a list of tips for students to decrease procrastination to avoid unnecessary anxiety.



AEI ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION INSTITUTE



ACCEPTING NEW APPLICANTS

Open Enrollment Ends August 27

ABOUT US

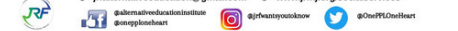
The Alternative Education Institute (AEI) program offers a FREE comprehensive education curriculum delivered in a non-traditional and remote learning environment to help students ages 16 and older obtain their New Jersey State High School Equivalency Diploma.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	PROGRAM HOURS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
We are currently enrolling new applicants into all three of our educational programs: AEI General Program, AEI Adult Evening Program and the AEI Saturday Spanish Program (SSP).	AEI General Program (Monday - Thursday) 9:30 AM-12:30 PM / 1:00 PM-4:00 PM AEI Adult Evening Program (Wednesday Night Only) 5:00 PM-8:00 PM AEI Spanish Saturday Program (Saturday Only) 9:30 AM-12:30 PM	Must be 16 years old and older Must live in Middlesex County, NJ Must not be enrolled in school or any other educational program/institute. Must be able to provide valid documentation. Must be able to commit to a (4-6 month) program.

****ALL AEI SATURDAY SPANISH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS MUST SPEAK, READ AND WRITE SPANISH.****

ALL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO FREE PRIVATE TUTORING LESSONS, CASE MANAGEMENT AND OTHER ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP STUDENTS ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

GET IN TOUCH: • (732) 324-2114 Ext. 100 • 149 Kearny Avenue 2nd Floor, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
• jrfalternativeducation@gmail.com • www.jrfnj.org/socialservices



AEI Eligibility Requirements:

- Must live in Middlesex County, NJ
- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must not be enrolled in any other program or institution
- Must be able to provide valid documentation including citizenship status

For more info please contact 732-896-0552



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PERTH AMBOY ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY



Neighborhood Cleanup

The PAAC Team kicked off the summer with a neighborhood cleanup at Francis Street Park, located in the Budapest area of Perth Amboy, NJ. After their hard work, everyone enjoyed homemade ice cream from Fajji's Homemade Ice Cream and pizza from Domino's Pizza. PAAC collaborated with the Perth Amboy Clean Communities and the City of Perth Amboy to be part of a citywide event. Sanitation materials, giveaways and t-shirts were given to all who participated.

In addition to the cleanup, PAAC also organized a neighborhood *Ice Cream Meet Up* at Francis Street Park with the Perth Amboy Police Department to talk with residents about community policing and public safety issues. Residents once again enjoyed refreshments and ice cream from Fajji's, while having an open and honest discussion with our officers.

PAAC Neighborhood NRTC Planning

The PAAC team also came together with neighbors and stakeholders to facilitate several conversations on the PAAC Neighborhood NRTC Plan, which can be found on the JRF website. This new plan lays out strategies and projects designed to improve our PAAC Neighborhood over the next 10 years. On June 16, PAAC held a neighborhood meeting to discuss the overall vision. Refreshments, snacks and ice cream were served, and the plan was explained in great detail with a final survey at the end to gather the opinions of the residents.



In addition to the PAAC Neighborhood meeting, the PAAC team met with the PAAC Host Team, and Mayor Caba, of the City of Perth Amboy, to get feedback on the plan. The PAAC Team worked very hard constructing this plan over the past year; submitting the final version to the NJ Department of Community Affairs in June. The heart of the plan is reflective of what is truly important to our community, based on the input gathered from all who live, work or play in the PAAC Neighborhood!



Senior Wellness Club

This summer the PAAC Team also welcomed back the "Senior Wellness Club"! With the closing of the JRF Silver Linings Program, PAAC held an introduction program on July 14 at the PAAC Community Garden, where they welcomed the former participants of Silver Linings and several others.

Seniors gathered and received a tour of the community garden, learned about program changes and provided feedback about the type of events they would like to see implemented. Pizza from Stella's Pizza, located on Hall Ave in Perth Amboy, was served for lunch, activities took place and the seniors took home books. PAAC anticipates holding 1-2 events a month with this wonderful group in the future, and hopes to increase the number of members as we market the changes.

Trivia
or
Fun Fact

WHAT 8

DESIGNATED

COMMUNITIES DOES

THE JRF SERVE?

JRF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



1931 Oak Tree Rd. Edison, NJ 08820

Phone: (732) 482-9600

Office Hours:

Mon/Tues/Wed/Fridays 9am-5pm

Thursdays 11am-7pm



Let's Get Vaccinated

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