



pillarnj.org  
pillarschoolsnj.org

## OUR PROGRAMS

PILLAR CARE SERVES MORE THAN  
**1,700 FAMILIES**  
EACH YEAR THROUGH THE  
FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:



- ✓ **Pillar Elementary School and Pillar High School**, which serve more than 150 students with multiple disabilities;
- ✓ **Three day programs** that serve more than 220 adults with developmental disabilities;
- ✓ **Early Intervention Program** that serves more than 500 infants in their home or other natural environment;
- ✓ **Seventeen community residences** that provide around-the-clock care and support;
- ✓ **Public School Therapies program** that delivers therapy to over 750 students directly in their local public schools;
- ✓ **Essex Properties**, a specialized 24-unit apartment complex;
- ✓ **After school program** in Livingston;
- ✓ **Community-based respite programs**, including In-Home Supports and after school/after work through our Extended Day Groups in Irvington and Orange; and
- ✓ **Weekend respite program.**

ANNUAL REPORT

# 2020

## NO MERIT WITHOUT CRISIS:

*Progress in the Face of the Pandemic*



**PILLAR**  
CARE CONTINUUM  
Lifelong Support for People with Disabilities



Board of TRUSTEES

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\*past chair    +deceased

PHOTOGRAPHY  
by Pete Zipf

OUR MISSION

*Pillar Care Continuum is dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities and other special needs by supporting personal growth, independence and participation in the community.*

A MESSAGE From Our Chair And CEO

“THERE’S NO MERIT WITHOUT CRISIS.  
IT’S IN THE CRISIS WHERE WE CAN SHOW THE VERY BEST IN US.  
Albert Einstein

The past year was unlike anything our agency has ever faced in our almost 70 years of serving people with disabilities. The pandemic took a toll on our organization at all levels – COVID-19 took the lives of some of those we serve and sickened large numbers of our staff members; it led to millions in lost revenue and hundreds of thousands of dollars in unanticipated costs. But it is not the pandemic that defined 2020 for Pillar Care, but rather our response to it.

As the pandemic surged across the region and most of the state was shut down, our group homes remained open and continued to provide around-the-clock care and support. Most of our other major programs quickly transitioned to a hybrid model, offering both virtual and (whenever possible) in-person programming. This involved a rapid deployment of technology to our staff and to those program participants who were without the requisite hardware and software as well as rethinking the physical layout, safety procedures and operational guidelines at all of our facilities. We refused to delay important projects and continued to develop new group homes and to enhance our programs in a wide variety of ways. And as we encountered staff shortages as well as other new and unexpected challenges, we turned to our amazing group of volunteers to carry out critical tasks and to maintain the human connections our participants needed to weather these challenging months.

We have emerged from 2020 as a stronger, more resilient organization that can now quickly and seamlessly transition to virtual services as needed. The crisis has forged an even stronger bond among our staff members, who routinely stepped up to help one another to ensure the safety and security of those we serve. And we are more confident than ever in our ability to adapt to unforeseen challenges. Please accept our thanks for helping to make all of this possible – your support ensures we have the resources to move our agency forward under even the most trying circumstances. Thank you for being there for us when we, and all those we serve, needed you most.

We hope you enjoy the annual report.

CLARK MACHEMER  
Chair, Board of Trustees

PURNA RODMAN CONARE  
President & CEO

CONTACT US

If you would like more information about any of our programs, please contact:

David Bishop  
Vice President of Development and Communications    ✉ dbishop@pillarnj.org

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2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE  
\$43,114,342

Government Contracts	5%	1,982,609
Fee for Service	48%	20,604,925
Public Schools	38%	16,533,407
Other Income	4%	1,783,150
Private Contributions	5%	2,210,251

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES  
\$42,242,309

Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	79%	33,259,031
Direct Program Costs	12%	4,858,909
Administration, Fundraising & Other	7%	2,973,222
Depreciation & Amortization	3%	1,151,147

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

36%	Schools	15,129,720
5%	Community Therapy	2,220,278
6%	Early Intervention	2,332,533
14%	Day Programs	5,837,223
24%	Group Homes	10,145,661
16%	Administration / Fund Raising	6,576,894

TOTAL EXPENSES BY PROGRAM \$42,242,309

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

📈 \$872,033



# KEEP WORKING

Pillar Care serves people with multiple and severe disabilities and medical challenges who depend on us for care and support. We could not allow even a pandemic to stand in the way of delivering these critical services.

## 24/7

All 15 of our group homes remained open throughout the pandemic, providing around-the-clock care and support for our residents

- 45 group home staff members contracted COVID-19
- 19 residents contracted COVID-19 and 2 passed away
- Kessler Foundation provided a grant to support incentive pay for our group home staff during the heart of the pandemic
- The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey provided an emergency grant

## PPE

Obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE) was critical to ensuring the safety of our staff and those they serve. With the help of donated products as well as more than \$50,000 donated through our COVID Emergency Response Fund, Pillar Care obtained the following during 2020:



**657,528**  
pairs of gloves



**191,408**  
masks



**15,300**  
gowns/ponchos



**1,029**  
goggles/face-shields



**50**  
infrared thermometers

## GOING VIRTUAL

Protecting the health and well-being of our program participants required closing our two special needs schools and three day programs for adults for weeks at a time. But while the facilities were closed, the programs quickly adapted, converting to virtual instruction.

Our Early Intervention Program, Pillar Schools and three day programs delivered

**86,300 virtual lesson hours**

Pillar also **loaned tablets to 63 families** who would otherwise not have been able to participate in virtual instruction



# KEEP BUILDING

Thousands of adults with disabilities throughout New Jersey are desperately in need of accessible housing with the supports that will allow them to live as independently as possible in the community. Pillar Care is committed to helping to meet this need by adding new group homes each year. In 2020, we continued our work in the face of the pandemic and opened our 16th and 17th group homes.

## Harding TOWNSHIP

## Morris TOWNSHIP



### 4-bedroom group home

- Earned 4 COAH credits
- Land donated by Harding Township
- Funding provided by New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities



### 4-bedroom group home with attached 2-bedroom apartment

- Earned 6 COAH Credits
- Land donated by Joe Forgione and JMF Properties
- Supported by a generous grant from the Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Funding also provided by New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities

## 3 New Homes UNDER DEVELOPMENT

**WESTWOOD**  
(BERGEN COUNTY)

**PLAINFIELD**  
(UNION COUNTY)

**WHARTON**  
(MORRIS COUNTY)



# KEEP IMPROVING

## TEXT for the Cause

Funds raised through our text for the cause segment of our 2019 Steps to Independence Celebration allowed us to do the following:

### ✔ New Multipurpose Room

Thanks to Bob Doerr and 3LLC, as well as Alston Construction, we completely renovated the multipurpose room at our Pillar Elementary School.

### ✔ Therapeutic Play Group

We are able to continue to offer a therapeutic play group for infants and toddlers with special needs at no cost to the families who participate.

### ✔ Equine Therapy

The donations ensured the continuation of equine therapy for students at Pillar Elementary School.

### ✔ Smartboards

State-of-the-art smartboards were installed at both Pillar Elementary School and Pillar High School.

### ✔ Virtual Reality

Virtual reality equipment was purchased for our three day programs that allows program participants to virtually visit and learn about a wide range of different sites.



At Pillar Care, we believe it is imperative to always be improving our organization at all levels. Thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to strengthen our programs in a number of ways.

## FOUNDATIONS

### COMMERCIAL WASHER/DRYER



**The Hyde and Watson Foundation** provided a grant that allowed us to pilot the use of a commercial washer and dryer at our new group home in Morris Township. We anticipate using commercial units will be more cost-efficient in the long-term and lead to this being our standard going forward.

### POWER WHEELCHAIR



**The Summit Foundation** awarded a grant to support the purchase of a power wheelchair for Pillar Elementary School that will be utilized to assess and train students in need of a power chair. More than half of the school's students require a wheelchair and many of these students are best served with a power wheelchair. Additional funding was provided by the Wheelin'-n'-Walkin' Challenge.



# KEEP PARTNERING

## VIRTUAL Programming

When the agency's day programs were forced to close their facilities and rapidly transition to virtual programming, the volunteer department recruited a team of experts in various fields to create more than **4,800 hours of fun**, educational and interactive content. Each virtual session had an average attendance of 40 program participants.

Sessions topics included:

- ✓ Reading instruction
- ✓ Literature
- ✓ Poetry
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Art
- ✓ Museum studies
- ✓ Wildlife
- ✓ Travel
- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Entertainment
- ✓ Martial arts
- ✓ Culinary arts
- ✓ Meditation

Pillar Care's Volunteer Department reinvented the volunteer experience by creating a range of virtual volunteer opportunities and deploying volunteers in unique ways to support our program participants and staff members and strengthen our overall programming.

### MAINTAINING Normalcy

With group home residents cut off from most social contact, the volunteer department helped to connect them with regular one-on-one Zoom calls with volunteers. The department trained all group home staff to utilize the software and conducted more than **550 calls**.



### SUPPORTING STAFF and their Families

Concerned about staff morale amidst COVID outbreaks, the department secured more than **\$25,000 in product donations** from local companies. More than 200 employees received food, self-care products, clothing, books, and holiday gifts.



### GOING the Distance

With many staff ill, volunteers filled the gap, handling the weekly distribution of masks and other personal protective equipment to the agency's group homes. This expanded to delivery of food, equipment, and school supplies to students from Pillar Schools. Volunteers drove **11,536 miles** to make all of their deliveries



### EXPANDING our Circle of Volunteers

With volunteering going virtual, the department went national in its recruiting efforts, with **volunteers from 14 different states** and one other country:

- New Jersey
- Indiana
- North Carolina
- California
- Maryland
- Ohio
- Colorado
- Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania
- Florida
- Nebraska
- Texas
- Illinois
- New York
- Dominican Republic

The department also strengthened our efforts by **partnering with 27 other nonprofit organizations**.



# PILLAR CARE DONORS

The support of our donors has allowed us to strengthen and expand our programs at all levels. They have helped us to nurture a culture of innovation that ensures that we deliver the most effective and engaging programming at all levels.

## TRUSTEES' CIRCLE • PLATINUM (\$25,000+)

3LLC	JMF Properties LLC	Petillo, Inc.
Alston Construction	Kessler Foundation	Renda Roads Inc.
Brent Material	Lithko Contracting, LLC	Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation
Donald Brief & Dottie Litwin-Brief	Clark & Michelle Machemer	RWJBarnabas Health
Competitive Plumbing & Heating Inc.	The Marcus Family Foundation	Ward Pavements Inc
Crow Holdings	Kelly & Nancy Marx	Wicklow & Laurano
GEMCO Constructors	McCombs Steel Company, Inc.	
Harding Township	Peerless Concrete	

## TRUSTEES' CIRCLE • GOLD (\$10,000+)

Capitol Supply Construction Products	Sandy & Helene Jaffe	Joseph and Cheryl Marino Family Foundation Inc.
County Concrete Corp.	Kelly Construction	Meeker Sharkey Associates
Bobby Doerr	Brian T. & Paula Kloza	Jeff & Judy Milanaik
Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey	Brian & Kathy Kronick	Bob & Jean Murray
Huen Electric	Kushner Companies	Phoenix Tube Company, Inc.
Impact Environmental	Stuart & Laura Litwin	The Summit Foundation
International Business Machines (IBM)		

## TRUSTEES' CIRCLE • SILVER (\$5,000+)

2020 Acquisitions	Iron Mountain Industrial Park LLC	Pashman Stein Walder Hayden
Ascape Landscape and Construction Corporation	Mike Kapnick	Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Peretti LLP
Berson Family Supporting Foundation	Christine Kotarba & Shawn Marlovits	Rockefeller Group Development Corporation
Brach Eichler	Langan Engineering & Environmental Services	Stavola Management Company Inc.
C & H Agency	Ruth & Gerald Legow	Peter Stavrinou
Campbell Foundry	Mandelbaum Salsburg Gold Lazris & Discenza	Sterling Properties
Chris Daley	Barry & Leslie Mandelbaum	Stover Excavating Inc.
Jeff & Dana DeOliveira	Michael Nasert	Tilcon New York
Anthony Figel	National Account Service Company	Triad Coatings
Greenfield Gardens LLC	Orange Orphan Society	Ultra Commercial Interiors
Lonnie & Bette Hanauer		Valley National Bank

## TRUSTEES' CIRCLE • BRONZE (\$2,500+)

Affiliated Management	Purna Rodman Conare & R.M. Stineman	New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company
Alfred & Lori Anthony	H & K Group, Inc.	Oliver Luxxe Assets
Justin Arce	Harry & Lorraine Mahoney	Leslie Smith Jr.
BarkBox Inc	MG Conti	Trap Rock Industries, LLC
Burns Family Foundation	Charles & Kathleen Morales	

## PARTNERS (1,000+)

William Bates	Jason Kakoyiannis
Jane and George Bean Charitable Fund	Bruce & Ava Kleinman
Edward Becker	Kenny Li
David Bishop	Liquid Church
BL Companies	Livingston Police Benevolent Association
Rick J. Bornstein	Lowenstein Sandler LLP
Derek & Anne Burke	Fred & Marcia Machemer
David Carlson & Lara Pennington	Nicholas Marcalus
Carpet Cycle LLC	Richard & Mynette Marcus
Jeff Comprelli	Bill McCombs
Cray Electric	Richard & Natalie Peck
Cream-O-Land Dairies, LLC	Gary Phillips
Anthony D'Avella	Ajay Ravi
EP Henry	Beth Rose
Hassan J. & Gerry Farhan	Runway of Dreams
Michael & Marjorie Francis	Kevin Ryan
Matthew & Jo Ann Gittleman	Alana Shaftacolas
Chris & Devon Halkyard	Myron Shevell
Meisel, Tuteur & Lewis, P.C.	Sobel & Co., LLC
William Mitchell	SRG Engineering Inc.
Michael Murray	Top Line Construction
Nicholas Murray	TWN Wealth Management
Nature's Choice Corporation	Wallace Trucking
Newark Academy	Michael Walters
Andy Page	H. O'Neil & Barbara Williams
Ted Halkyard	

## FRIENDS (500+)

Patrick Allard	Geoff Lanza
Charles & Noreen Andrews	Jake Machemer
Martin Barber	Michael & Lisa Mackessy
Dr. Abby Bond & Edward Bond	Daniel Marx
C & L Sweeper Service	Merica McCalla
Charles Cain	Fred & Charlotte Mitterhoff
Custom Bandag	Nobel Equipment & Supplies, Inc.
D & V Creative Solutions LLC	Andrea Nolan
Stephen Furnary	Peckman Productions, Inc.
George G. Gellert	Michele Penn
General Foundries Inc.	Mary Pfister
Patrick Ghilani	Lavanya Sagi
Edwin C & Suzann Goldstein Foundation	Aaron Salko
Anand varma Gottumukkala	John & Linda Schupper
Richard Grassey	Robert Sellers
Win Halkyard	SESI Consulting Engineers
Teresa Hatch	Amit Shukla
Mark Heeb & Heidi Yakowski	Richard & Gayle Singer
Howard & Pamela Hirsch	E. Tetz & Sons, Inc.
John Haber Spend Mgmt	Patrick Tully
Stephen & Shannon Johnson	U.S. Title Solutions LLC
Leonard Karp	Gabriel Vitale
Jay Kent	Brian Watkins
John Killian	Tammy Wilson
Raghuveer Kura	Mary Young

# PILLAR CARE SUPPORTERS

We extend our deepest thanks to the individuals and organizations whose support helped us to deliver our life-affirming services to more than 1,700 infants, children and adults in 2020.

# LEGACY SOCIETY

There is no greater commitment an individual can make to an organization than to remember it in his or her will. The size of the gift is not important – it can be a percentage of the estate or a set amount. What is important is the opportunity to serve as a model of philanthropy, leaving a legacy that will help support our programs.

We created the Pillar Care Legacy Society to honor those who have remembered the agency in their wills. We would like to express our deepest thanks to those who have already joined the Society, as of December 31, 2020:

- Ed Becker
- Jennifer & Darren Burns
- Fredya & Edward I. Burns
- Lonnie & Bette Hanauer
- Helene & Sandy Jaffe
- Ava & Bruce Kleinman
- Paula & Brian Kloza
- Dottie Litwin-Brief
- Kelly Marx
- Alan Mucatel
- Jay & Frankie Oberst
- Bobbi & Barry Ostrowsky





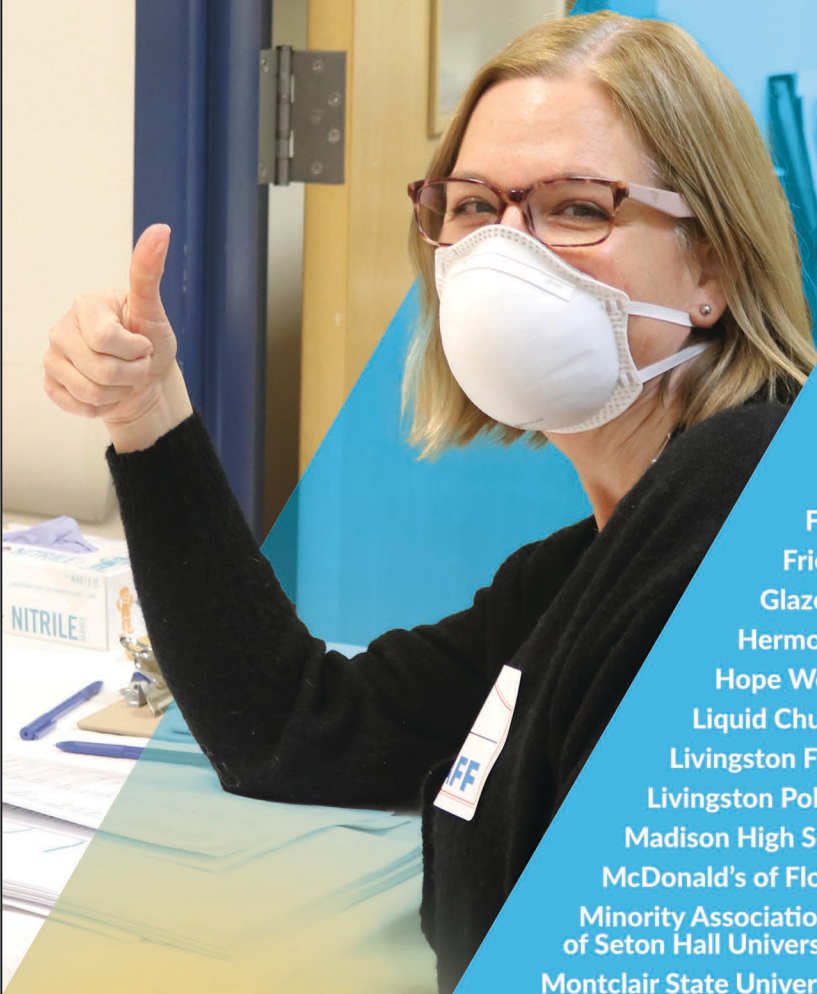
# PILLAR CARE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have a major impact on our agency. We are thankful for their contribution of time, talent and energy to enhance the services we provide. They have allowed us to continue to create special memories each day for the infants, children and adults we serve.

## INDIVIDUALS

Rahma Aboukwaik	Nathan Drogen	Lisa Lee	Rita Pinto	Jillian Szczepanski
Joelle Achillarre	Dylan Dubois	Michelle Lee	Marci Plissner	Janis Tafuri
Melissa Acuna-Dengo	Margaret Dukes	Caroline Leung	Karen Polanco	Jack Tawil
Allison Adams	Caroline Dymek	Oded Levitt	Allie Poles	Sneha Thudi
Dereck Amakye Jr.	Ammar Elshikh	Jayson Levy	Isabella Poppele-Green	Andrea Ubaldi
Kathryn Andersen	Madison Felton	Nicole Ling	Kristen Poppele-Green	Anthony Van Hook
Caitlin Anello	Deborah Fernandez	Gloria Liu	Isabel Portnoi	Michele Van Hook
Josie Anello	Adam Fisher	Joanna Liu	Cary Prisch	Daniela Vasquez
Ashima Arora	Cathy Fitzpatrick	Elizabeth Lopez	Ron Prosperi	Paul Vnenchak
Kabir Arora	Victor Foote	Susan Lopez	Preyanka Rana	Gail Waimon
Tina Balacco	Leena Futoryansky	Emmanuel Louis-Jean	Meera Rangarajan	Jessica Wang
Ethan Barishaw	Jake Gewirtz	Diane MacInnes	Nareesa Rayman	Joyce Weinberger
Jared Barishaw	Neel Godbole	Harry Mahoney	Samantha Reilly	Rachel Welner
Kerianne Beatty	Aniza Gódoe	Jack Maitlin	Stephanie Reilly	Susan Wenderoth
Bina Beed	Brooke Greenberg	Sam Maitlin	Theresa Reilly	Milan Williams
Taryn Berelowitz	Bette Hanauer	Aubree Marchione	Larissa Rennaker	Sharon Williams
Meghan Borowick	James Hartley	Wendy Marcus	Wayne Ricco	Tina Witowsky
Nabila Bhuiyan	Veronica Hengstler	Jordan Maruska	Faith Rivas	Erin Wong
Moirá Byrne	Olivia Hernandez	Joanna Mas	Natalie Rodriguez	Jessica Zinna-Chen
Carina Carlos	Billy Hill	Pranav Mathur	Corinne Roonan	Ron Zuckerman
Fides Carlos	Rose Homentosky	Amanda Matrone	Will Rosenberger	
Aarav Chakravorty	Kaitlyn Horn	Markie Moore	Lilibeth Santos	
Beth Chakravorty	Danielle Kovach	Kathy Morales	Jonah Scher	
Erin Chang	Jasmine Izadi	Daria Mosur	Matt Scher	
Sophie Chang	Wendy Rose Jenner	Abeer Mumtaz	Kathrin Schumacher	
Shane Chen	Alicia John	Kathy Murarik	Jodi Schuman	
Peter Cinko	Cayla Jones	Phyliss Mutone	Danna Seltzer	
Milton Cohen	Ruchika Kapila	Brittney Neal	Brittany Setaro	
Angela Cory	Garrett Kessler	Leidy Nizama	Husna Sheriff	
Graham Cory	Caroline Kiernan	Rachel Norton	Veronica Shrayman	
Joseph Cubero	Gowri Konkesa	George Ockel	Noah Silber	
Lee DeMarco	Judy Krafchik	Kaye O'Donnell	Annika Singh	
Betty Deren	AliceMae Lacson	Aneri Path	Kristine Sinisi	
Danielle Do	Elissa LaPrad	Becky Paulson	Maya Solanki	
Tommy Do	Liz Larsen	Isabel Pedrosa	Nadav Soudry	
Victoria Dobkowski	Ben Lee	Jason Pereira	Nicole Sphon	
Ryan Donaty	Evan Lee	Brian Pinney	Andrew Stern	

## ORGANIZATIONS



- AddamsFest of Westfield
- Alpha Phi Omega of Seton Hall University
- American Dance Wheels
- Ankit Memorial Foundation
- Bareburger of Morristown
- Brayton Elementary School
- Chipotle of East Hanover
- Friendship Circle
- Front Line Sewing Angels
- Front Line Appreciation Group of Chatham and Madison
- FLAG of Chester/Mendham
- FLAG of Passaic County
- FLAG of Scotch Plains/Fanwood
- FLAG of South Orange/Maplewood
- Friends and Family of Gabriella Giannone
- Glaze Donuts
- Hermosa Grace LLC
- Hope Worldwide, NJ Chapter
- Liquid Church
- Livingston Fire Department
- Livingston Police Department
- Madison High School
- McDonald's of Florham Park
- Minority Association of Pre-Health Students) of Seton Hall University
- Montclair State University
- MSU Americorps
- National Council for Jewish Women
- New Jersey DJ Services
- New Jersey Sews in Unity
- New Jersey Sled Dog Club
- Pillar Schools PTTA
- People for Animals
- Planet Earth Eyewear
- Randolph High School
- Runway of Dreams
- St. Catherine of Siena School
- St. Cassian School, Junior Girl Scout Troop 21194
- Seton Hall University Division of Volunteer Efforts
- The Soulfull Project
- SOMA Sewing Volunteers
- Team Harmony
- Trader Joe's of Florham Park
- Tropical Smoothie Café
- Wakefern Empowered Professional Association
- Walters Family and Friends
- Wiss & Company

