

# Newsline



Thank you volunteers and clients, donors and corporate partners

# Introducing Geri!

It's hard to have a more refreshing perspective than Geri, our Volunteer of the Month. The Egg Harbor Twp. resident makes calls three times a week officially, reaches out to some of her people unofficially on other days and talks about how she's been blessed.

All of this despite being blind for 40 years.

"I feel lucky that I was able to see at one point in my life, some people who are born with blindness never have the privilege of seeing a sunset or knowing what certain colors look like," she says. "I thank the Lord for everything I have."

November 2020

What she has includes empathy. Geri cares about people in nursing homes and anyone who is lonely or sad. About four years ago, she joined CONTACT. "I am happy to make these calls for CONTACT," she says. "The people become our heart, your family. A lot of people are alone, they don't have anyone. It is very rewarding to speak with them."

Geri has been proof that blindness does not have to take over one's life. She attended a braille school. She has learned a realm of practical tools like leaving a radio on near her door entrance. The sound indicates where her door is, so if she is outside gardening and gets turned around, she'll adjust and find her entrance.

Geri knows the dot on the phone indicates the number 5 and she can maneuver from there. Tape on the stove indicates where 350 degrees is for cooking purposes. Geri built her CONTACT telephone list on a braille card. She can also type.

One of Geri's clients is blind, thus she can provide an example of rising above the situation. Geri adds a patient, friendly demeanor, lifting the spirit of her clients. She exemplifies the spirit of CONTACT. We congratulate her for this recognition and salute her dedication.

By Dave Bontempo

CONTACT Cape-Atlantic provides "free" telephone reassurance and community support for older adults, people with disabilities, and those who are lonely, living alone, or feeling isolated from their community.



Making a Difference, One Call at a Time ~ 47 Years of Service to the Community <sup>1</sup>

#### Our Team

Mary Jo Bernardo, Executive Director

Shayna Patel, Reassurance Coordinator

Dave Bontempo, Newsletter Contributor

#### **Board Members**

Patti Smith, President Wendy Moyle, Vice President Shilo Kubiak, Treasurer Sierra Sage, Secretary Charles C. Bratton, II Linda Carson Aaryan Deshpande Faten Dib Joe Dib ~ Welcome Joe! Barbara Patroni Gallagher Shelley Jones Voula Liacopulous Lisa Price Jane Soreth Cyndi Zubia

#### **Advisory Board Members**

Steven Abate Mark Arbeit Alice Cranston Maria Garcia Lorraine Halliday Rena Hofeld Maggie Mammano Brian Maroney Ronda McCabe Sharon O'Neill Carolyn Peterson fichael Weinraub, Esc

#### Welcome Back to New Board Member Kyle Jaremko

As Customer Relationship Management Administrator at EPM, Kyle works closely with the Wholesale and Retail sides of the business to help build relationships with both brokers and customers. He joined EPM from Princeton Federal Credit Union where he was Marketing Manager. Before that, he was Business Development Specialist at Jersey Shore Federal Credit Union, serving the financial needs of those in Atlantic and Cape May counties in New Jersey. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and earned a Master of Science degree from Sheffield Hallam University (Sheffield, UK). He lives with his wife Eliza, daughter Susannah, and son Simon. He most enjoys visiting the Jersey Shore with his family between Labor Day and Memorial Day.



### Special Winter CONTACT Cape-Atlantic Louis Vuitton Bag Raffle!!

# Drawing; Tuesday, 12/15 at 7 pm

Help a good cause and look fabulous with your new LV NEVERFULL MM Bag

Tickets \$20 ~

Only 300 tickets will be sold!

For tickets email contact-c-a@comcast.net, call 609-823-1850 or connect with one of the CONTACT board members!



The Avar of home care. We provide a helping hand with personal care, light houseborping, meal proparation, transportation, comparisonable, shopping, emands, and much movet Call Us: 609-241-0899 Trained • Bonded • Insured • Dedicated Staff



Welcome new volunteers Mary Porter, Maria Piechowski, and Carmen Cruz

THANK YOU to our amazing active volunteer team!



Carl & Joanne Petzold, , Sharon & Charlie O'Neill, Debbie Clark, Linda & Rob Klersey, Peggy Adgie, Deborah Amdeick, Megha Andrews, Mary Lou Antinozzi, Bill Barnes, Julie Baumgardner, Ruth Berdinis, Dave Bontempo, Carol Bruce, Jeannette Capinas, Rene Capua, Myra Cohen, Aaryan Deshpande, Faten, Nick and Joe Dib; Mary Duncan; Kathy Engle; Detta Fagnano; Sharon Fish, Carla Furr, Victoria Gaskill, Pat Gerew, Gerry Giangiobbe, Max Grieco, Judith Hall, Sandra Hamer Jensen, David Hammonds, Agnes Horenkohl, Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth Katz, Mary Anne Kelly, Norma Kilgour, Kym Lagattuta, Mary Laielli, Kim Leung, Sandra Long, Kim Malinkski-Rifkin, Carol & Harry Marder, Louisa Mazetis, Sheila McLaughlin, Janet Melven, Richard Middlesworth, Marilyn Miller, Kathy Morrin, Linda Muhlig, Marc and Sue Murphy, Anne O'Donald, Mary Quarterolo, Gina Rendon-Perez, Dot Rogers, Arlene Rosenfeld, Eleanor Rust, Geri Sampson, Deb Sattler, Karen Saunders, Ted Scheick, Matt Scheinert, Cecilia Sharif, Tina Smith, Derek Solomon, Joan Sorenson, Tim Stafford, Kamini Surti, Amie Sykes, Emmy Todd, Bhavana Tretina, Ellen Van Winkle, Jane Vitullo, Regina Williams Fields, Beverly Wilson-Oliver, Rachel Winkworth, Barbara Youtie, Judith Yoa, Lorraine Glasser, and Arlene Polmaneri

We are ever grateful to have rich relationships with our corporate partners and event sponsors! At this time of Thanksgiving we send you our greatest appreciation for the value you have for our work. Thank you!



#### Gold Sponsors (\$1,000)

**Republic Bank** Visiting Angels, Atlantic County

#### Silver Sponsors (\$500)

1st Bank of Sea Isle City AtlantiCare Autumn Lakes Healthcare Brookdale Cape May Comfort Keepers Dompierre, LLC Glenn Insurance, Inc. Journey Hospice Law Offices of Raymond Beebe Michael A. Goloff, CPA/Barbara Youtie McMahon Insurance Agency Right At Home Robertson and Fendt, LLC The Sneaker Shop Serenity Hospice Sturdy Savings Bank Thomas Heist Insurance Touching Hearts at Home United Methodist Communities, The Shores

#### Thank you Major Donors

Jane Soreth and Nancy Ramundo





## Happy November Birthday!

- 11/01 Nita W.
- 11/03 Carol M.
- 11/05 Pierre G.
- 11/06 Dorothy R.
- 11/09 Kym L.
- 11/11 Emma T.
- 11/12 Barbara S.
- 11/13 Rory C.
- 11/14 Reggie L. Osmond B. 11/16 Mincy E.
- 11/22 JoAnne P. Robert R.11/25 Eleanor R.
- 11/26 Bruce K.
- 11/27 Dianne S.
- 11/30 Alma B. Robert C.

AtlantiCare



#### Welcome New Board Member Joe Dib

Joe is a junior at Mainland Regional High School. He is a member of the student council, key club and Ping Pong club; the president of the youth group at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and a basketball captain for the church team. Joe also helps make PB&J sandwiches monthly to support the Salvation Army.

He loves to play soccer, tennis and basketball, travel and play video games. He also enjoys spending time with family and friends. Joe works at Trinity Learning Center as a teacher's aid to help the children during virtual learning and he will be participating in a mentorship at the FAA for the academic year 2020-2021.

Joe enjoys making calls for CONTACT and is excited to join the contact board and work side by side with his mother. He is hoping to get the youth involved with the CONTACT mission.

*Interested in being a Journey Hospice volunteer?* 

There are so many ways to help! If anyone is interested please visit <u>www.journeyhospicenj.org</u> to download and complete the Volunteer Application.

> For questions, contact Beth Gebhart at (609) 760-6073 or email <u>journeyin-</u> <u>fo@lsmnj.org</u>



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Reassurance Round-up from Shayna Patel



Thanksgiving is the time of year when families all gather for delicious food and memories. This year however is different because of the growing concerns around COVID-19. But there are still ways that we can celebrate events in a safe manner. The CDC recommends low risk activities such as:

• Having a small dinner with only people who live in your household and preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors. You may also deliver them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others

• Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the next Monday. Majority of stores have shifted to online, it's the most safe and effective way to purchase things

especially because you avoid large crowds in shopping malls. Many stores offer free shipping and promotions too so there's many ways to save money during the holiday season.

• Watching sports events, parades, and movies from home.

# **GATEKEEPERS** at the Forefront

Anyone can be a gatekeeper

The Gatekeeper Program trains community members to recognize the signs that a neighbor who lives alone could use some help. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE FREE GATEKEEPER TRAINING PLEASE CALL (609) 823-1850.** Training is available for public service companies such as cable and utilities, employees of local business such as banks, delivery companies, and others from organizations who have daily contact with local residents.

Training is less than 1 hour; in person or on your own or at a small meeting; new materials!

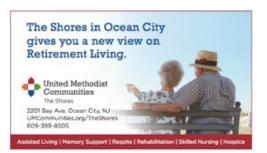
The Gatekeeper Program helps individuals in the community learn to listen, observe and care for those adults living alone that may need help.

ROBERTSON & FENDT, LLC Attorneys at Law 1015 New Road, Suite C., Northfield, NJ 08225 Personal Injury ~ Municipal Court ~ Family Law

Law Offices of RAYMOND N. BEEBE

RAYMOND N. BEEBE, ESQ., CPA

2106 New Road Linwood Commons, Suite F-4 Linwood, New Jersey 08221 Telephone (609) 601-2400 Telefax (609) 601-2401 Rbeebe@brebelawnj.com



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# \$1 a day? That's enough to make a difference to a CONTACT Client!

1 month sponsor: \$30; 1 year sponsor: \$365! (please mail your donation with the last page)

Welcome and thank you to Lisa Birge-Price, our newest recurring monthly Sponsor a Client donor. Thank you to the annual client sponsors: Murray & Debby Bevitz (November 2019), William and Alice Crockford (June 2020), Anna Marie Donley, Barbara Youtie, Maggie Rohe-Miller, Carol Nania, and Beverly Jernee and monthly donor Joseph Garbis.

# Volunteers, can't make your calls?

Let us know as soon as you can please. Call Shayna at 609-823-2109.

# Clients, going to be away?

Please inform us if you won't be home for your scheduled reassurance call. Call Shayna at 609-823-2109.

# Know someone who needs a check in call? Some social time on the phone?

Tell them about us and ask them to call us! Or tell us and we will reach out to them.

#### THE POWER OF RED IS BACK









TheSneakerShop

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Lucille Ellis, Andrea Thompson, Mary Lou Antinozzi, Diana Booth, Mary G. Johnson, Carl Petzold, Patti and Len Smith, Diana Intenzo, Linda Ryan, Mary Briggs, Margaret Camper-Price, and The Older Americans Act via a grant from Atlantic County Division of Intergenerational Services. And a special thank you to Shilo Kubiak for her birthday Facebook fundraiser reaching almost \$400 in donations!



Welcome New Clients! Charles G., Emitt G., Rose H., Tanya N., Joseph G., Mary Anne G.

www.robfenlaw.com

**ROBERTSON & FENDT, LLC** Attorneys at Law 1015 New Road, Suite C., Northfield, NJ 08225

Personal Injury ~ Municipal Court ~ Family Law

(609) 568-6642

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# Health & Wellness Symposium

Avalon Community Center, Avalon NJ

Free to the Public; Exhibitor Tables \$200

**Vendor/Sponsorship Opportunities** available!

~ Spring 2021 ~





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# **CONTACT Cape-Atlantic**

25 Dolphin Avenue, Bldg. D, Ground Floor Northfield, NJ 08225

609-823-2109; 609-823-1850 contact-c-a@comcast.net Nonprofit US Postage Paid Pleasantville, NJ 08232 Permit No. 29

### **My Contact Donation**

Please send a gift today to help CONTACT provide telephone reassurance services.

Please make your check payable to:

**CONTACT** Cape-Atlantic

25 Dolphin Avenue, Building D, Ground Floor Northfield, NJ 082225 Or donate on line at <u>www.contactcapeatlantic.org</u>

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