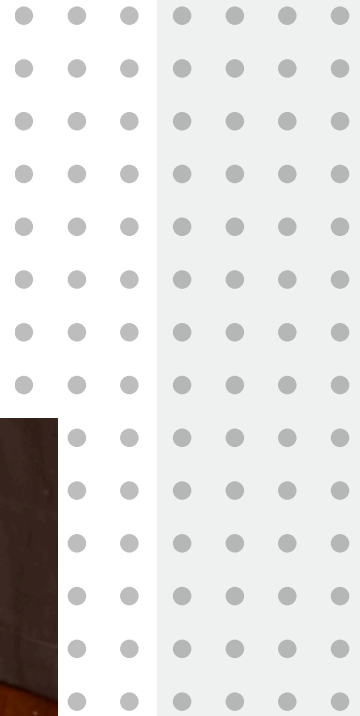




Impact Report



2024

Dear Friends,

A thriving community is built on the foundation of strong relationships and positive change in support of those in need. We are thrilled to share this 2024 Impact Report, which shows how your investment directly translated into tangible benefits for thousands of Bergen County residents, and showcases the power of connection and collective action.

Last year, our **CHEER** program matched 50+ volunteers with 77 homebound seniors in our area for a total of 5,672 hours of service. These new friendships and helpful tasks brought meaning and connectivity into so many lives. Our 40+ **CHORE** volunteers helped more than 1,000 seniors stay safe in their homes and completed more than 2,500 minor home repairs. These are just a few quantitative examples of how caring for others and the power of positive change can strengthen our community.

Then, there are the personal stories. Many of you have told us about the heartwarming connections you have made as volunteers. One example was from a **Senior Connections** volunteer about her time working with Flora, who recently passed away.

"Originally, I was supposed to call every Thursday and check in with Flora for 20 minutes. Well, that didn't last long; our calls became longer and more frequent. Then, I began visiting Flora at her house, and sometimes we would go out for lunch or shopping. I am a better person for having known Flora. Flora taught me life lessons and always gave me the best advice. We became close friends, and I considered Flora family. I love Flora, and I believe she loved me too."

We hear from people like Abdul, a recipient of the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program, who shared his experience with Bergen Volunteers.

"I had the pleasure of having your volunteers help me with my taxes. Steve is actually whom I sat with, but he and all the staff members kept a calm, friendly, and stress free atmosphere. I was trying to clean up my back taxes and I thought it would be messy, but your staff made for a great experience for me! Thank you for all you do for us and the community."

This Impact Report reflects a lot of hard work, dedication and lives changed in 2024. There were also changes *inside* Bergen Volunteers last year. We welcomed new senior leadership with a fresh vision for the organization, moved to a new office, enhanced our communication efforts, and set the wheels in motion for some exciting new initiatives that will be promoted over the coming months.

As we move ahead, we are confident that we can create an even stronger and more vibrant community here in Bergen County by continuing to work together. We invite you to stay connected to us by visiting our website at www.bergenvolunteers.org, subscribing to our newsletter, or following us on social media @bergenvolunteers.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.

Best,



Paul Collier
President, Board of Directors



Shara Nadler
CEO



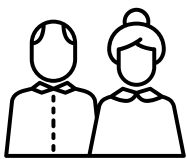


OUR MISSION

Providing human service and training programs to improve lives and strengthen communities.

Bergen Volunteers has been an integral part of our community for nearly 60 years, offering a wealth of programs and services throughout Bergen County.

Our volunteer-driven direct-assistance programs support vulnerable seniors, at-risk youth, and families in need. We offer leadership development and civic engagement training to local teens and rising professionals. We also engage individuals and businesses with networking and local community service opportunities.



VULNERABLE SENIORS

- CHORE
- CHEER
- Senior Connections
- Redefining Retirement



AT-RISK YOUTH & FAMILIES

- Mentoring
- Bergen READS
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- All Wrapped Up



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- Bergen LEADS
- Teen LEADS

OUR PROGRAMS

CHORE

The CHORE program helps vulnerable seniors and those with disabilities in our community by providing minor home repairs and implementing safety measures. Skilled volunteers assist with fixing leaky faucets, replacing light switches and outlets, and installing grab bars, indoor railings, doorbells, locks, carbon monoxide detectors, and smoke alarms. When the seasons change, CHORE volunteers will help with either installing or removing window AC units.



THE IMPACT OF CHORE IN 2024:

- 1,213 seniors assisted
- 9,920 hours of service by 40+ volunteers
- 2,505 minor home repairs & upgrades



CHEER

Due to illness, disability, or loss of friends and loved ones, many of our community's seniors experience profound loneliness and are isolated in their homes without support. The CHEER program matches caring volunteers with homebound seniors to offer meaningful social interaction, as well as assistance with errands like grocery shopping, library book returns, prescription pick-up, and other light, helpful tasks.



THE IMPACT OF CHEER IN 2024:

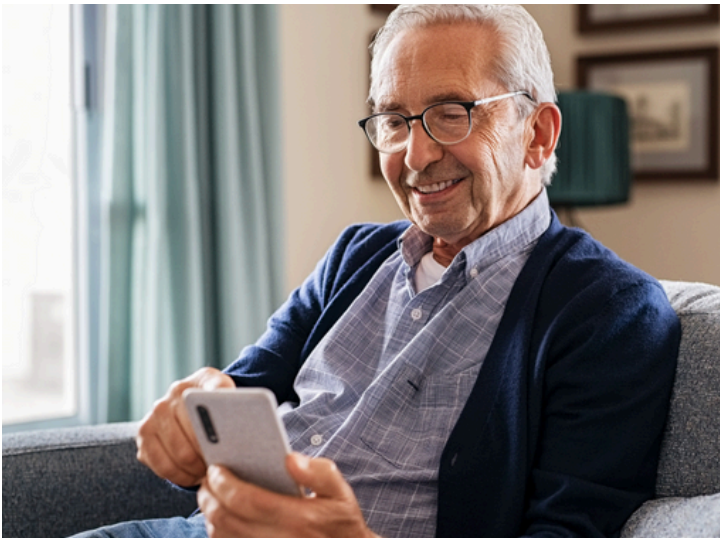
- 77 seniors assisted
- 5,672 hours of service by 50+ volunteers
- Growing volunteer base with 28 new additions



OUR PROGRAMS

Senior Connections

This program is ideal for seniors who miss being connected to others in their community. Participants receive weekly phone calls from our volunteers, providing the friendship and social support seniors need. Matches are renewed on a month-to-month basis, based on the needs of our participants and the availability of our volunteers.



Redefining Retirement

For retirees seeking a way to make a difference in their community, the Redefining Retirement program is a valuable resource. The program liaisons work with nonprofit partners to identify areas of need and connect them with local retirees who have the specific skill set and past experiences they require.



OUR PROGRAMS

Mentoring

The Mentoring program enlists, trains, matches, and supports volunteers to respond to the specific needs of youth, families, first-generation college students, and caregivers in our community. Compassionate mentors help their mentees focus on achieving goals, navigate challenging times, build confidence and self-esteem, and learn about available resources.



THE IMPACT OF MENTORING IN 2024:

- 29 mentees
- 29 mentors
- 978 volunteer hours of service



Bergen READS

The Bergen READS program partners with Title 1 schools in our area, and our volunteers work 1:1 with selected students to improve literacy skills and achieve academic success. The program encourages critical thinking, develops confidence, and builds vocabulary. Our volunteers' commitment to the program builds trusted relationships with their students.



THE IMPACT OF BERGEN READS IN 2024:

- 177 students matched with a reading buddy
- 68 volunteers and 2,850+ hours of supported reading
- 7 elementary schools serviced:
 - 4 in Hackensack School District
 - 3 in Teaneck School District



OUR PROGRAMS

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

VITA is an IRS-certified program that provides free tax preparation assistance to low-to-moderate income individuals and families, those with disabilities, seniors, and English language learners.



THE IMPACT OF VITA IN 2024:

- 569 tax returns prepared
- 28 diligent volunteers
- Thousands saved in tax preparation fees



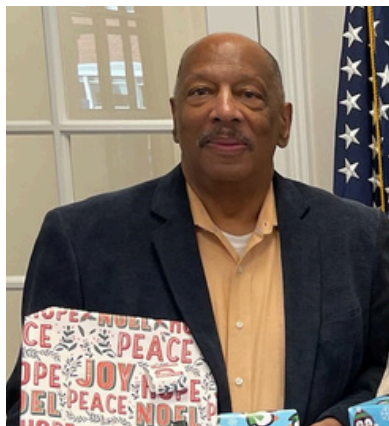
All Wrapped Up

All Wrapped Up is a gift-giving program that puts a smile on the faces of many during the holiday season. Wish lists, which are procured by trusted agency partners from low-income individuals and families in our community, are shared with willing individual donors or corporate sponsors who then shop for them. This program lifts the spirits of those who might not otherwise receive holiday gifts, and gives donors the opportunity to give back to neighbors in need.



THE IMPACT OF ALL WRAPPED UP IN 2024:

- 3,279 gift recipients
- 781 generous individual donors
- 62 businesses giving back to our community



OUR PROGRAMS

Bergen LEADS

Bergen LEADS is an interactive project-based leadership development program for professionals living or working in Bergen County. Participants learn about community issues from local leaders; receive training on effective leadership, communication, and planning skills; and gain insight into the inner workings of the public and private sectors. LEADS graduates garner skills to help them become more civically engaged and effective stakeholders, who can help shape our community's future.



THE IMPACT OF BERGEN LEADS IN 2024:

- 30 enrolled in the class of 2024/2025
- 10 sessions of site visits, skill-building workshops, and insightful panels
- Program graduates join an active network of 500+ alumni



Teen LEADS

Presented in partnership with Veolia Water New Jersey, Teen LEADS is an experiential two-week summer program that builds teens' leadership skills and knowledge of Bergen County. In 2024, 26 teens participated in the program.



2024 LEARNING TOPICS:

- Leadership & Team Building
- Communication & Public Speaking
- Goal Setting
- College Readiness



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Corporate Social Responsibility



Bergen Volunteer's Corporate Social Responsibility branch connects local businesses to meaningful volunteer opportunities. By matching organizations' philanthropic goals with community needs, we empower companies to make a positive social impact.



Get Connected

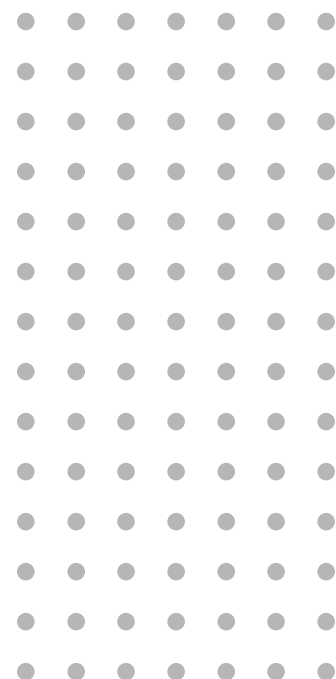
Our Get Connected agency membership is designed to empower other nonprofit organizations with resources, visibility, and support to drive meaningful change. Among the valuable membership benefits is the Get Connected Database, which allows nonprofits to post unlimited volunteer opportunities and connect easily with volunteers. Additional support with marketing, social media, recruiting, and networking is also available.



SPECIAL EVENTS

During 2024, Bergen Volunteers hosted two successful fundraisers. In July, we held Paddles & Prosecco—our very first pickleball event and charity auction. This sold-out event brought players of all ages and skill levels together to battle it out on the courts. In between matches, attendees enjoyed delicious food and lively conversation in the lounge area.

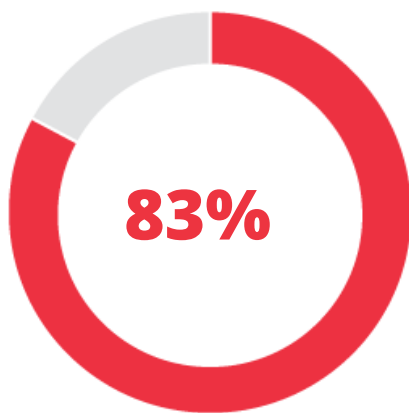
In November, we celebrated volunteerism, generosity, and the incredible impact we can make together with our Taste & Toast event. Guests were treated to wonderful food and wine pairings, while live music created the perfect atmosphere for an evening of fun and connection.



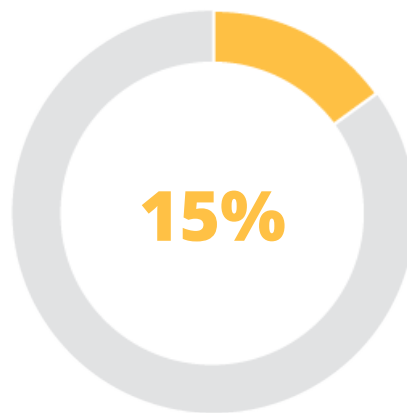
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Bergen Volunteers receives funding from a variety of sources including individuals, organizations, corporations, foundations, and government entities. Our ability to turn caring into meaningful action is made possible through the philanthropic support of the community.

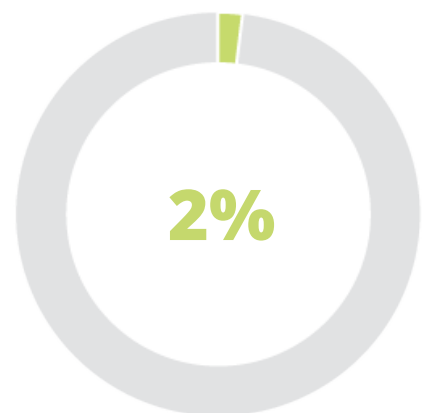
Functional Expenses:



Programmatic



Fundraising

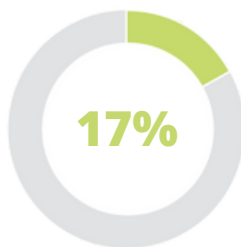


Administrative

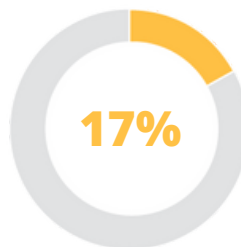
Sources of Funding:



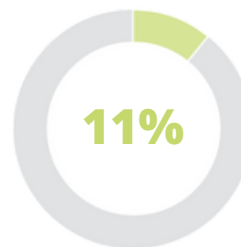
Government



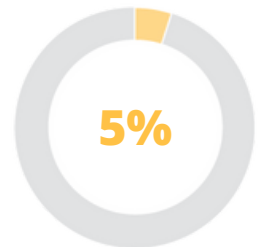
Donations



Miscellaneous



Foundations



Fee for Services

FOUNDATION & CORPORATE DONORS

POWER OF VOLUNTEERS \$25,000+

Lillian Pitkin Schenck Fund
Synetek Solutions*

AGENT FOR CHANGE \$10,000-\$24,999

Alfiero and Lucia Palestroni Foundation
PSEG Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
Veolia Water New Jersey
Wallerstein Foundation

COMMUNITY IMPACT \$5,000-\$9,999

Advent Lutheran Church
BCB Community Bank
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New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Co.
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Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.
PNC Foundation
Sharp Electronics Corporation+
Wiseheart Foundation, Inc.

CIVIC INNOVATION \$1,000-\$4,999

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Community Chest of Leonia
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The Frank and Brenda Gallagher
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UNITS*
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
Women's Foundation of New Jersey

* Denotes Gift in Kind Support

+ Denotes both Monetary and Gift in Kind Support



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

LEADERS \$10,000+

Carmen Dominguez
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In Honor of Anthony Santulli

INVESTORS \$5,000-\$9,999

Donna Orlando
Michael J. Porro & Co. Benevolence Plus
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BENEFACTORS \$2,500-\$4,999

In Memory of Hilde Jacobsthal Goldberg
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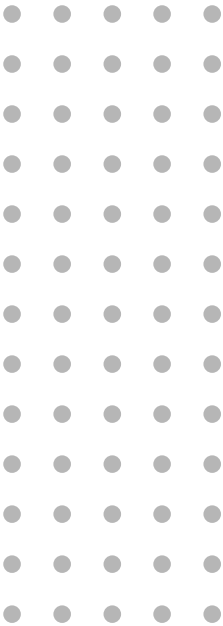
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**919 Donors gave less
than \$100 in cash.
Those gifts totaled
\$35,612.79.**

* Denotes Gift in Kind Support

+ Denotes both Monetary and Gift in Kind Support

Bergen LEADS class year follows graduates' names

Every effort was made to ensure that our donor listing is accurate and complete. If your name does not appear or is listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies. Kindly call us at 201-489-9454, ext. 215, so that we may update our records.

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