



**Jewish
Renaissance
Foundation**
A Community Action Agency
ONE PEOPLE, ONE HEART

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 



Contact: Shakila Woltz
Jewish Renaissance Foundation
Tel: (732) 324-2114
Website: www.jrfnj.org
Email: info@jrfnj.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PERTH AMBOY GETS SERVED ON MLK DAY

The Jewish Renaissance Foundation AmeriCorps dedicate national day of service to the Mercy House Food Pantry

Perth Amboy, NJ. January 18, 2017 – In the 1963 collection “Strength to Love” by Martin Luther King Jr. it included a sermon titled “Three Dimensions of a Complete Life” which contained the following quote, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?” Striving to honor Dr. King’s legacy, the Jewish Renaissance Foundation’s (JRF) AmeriCorps has been putting into aim into action of giving back to their community since 2013. This year, twenty (20) of their AmeriCorps members committed themselves to the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a “day on, not a day off” to rehabbing the Mercy House Food Pantry of the Cathedral International, on Monday, January 16th, located on 282 McClellan Street in Perth Amboy.

The Mercy House Food Pantry provides dry food goods, clothing and referral assistance for all who are in need regardless of race, age or income. Working tirelessly to provide assistance to those that seek it, the Mercy House Food Pantry was in need of restoration to improve their continued work. The JRF AmeriCorps members were able to make such improvements, including cleaning, painting, sorting food donations, and organized coats for their upcoming ‘Point In Time’ event. The members also purchased and assembled furniture for the intake office including lamps, a sofa set, file cabinets, racks for clothes and guest chairs.

“We are honored and humbled that JRF’s AmeriCorps chose our site to complete the day of service,” stated Damaris Ramirez, Program Director of Social Services of Cathedral’s Community Development Corporation (CDC). “We are truly grateful and impressed of the work completed that will positively impact how we serve our clients.”

Joining thousands across the country, the JRF AmeriCorps members and Perth Amboy community volunteers committed themselves and their time to participate in MLK Day of Service

led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that encourages Americans to participate in service through organizations like AmeriCorps.

“We answer Dr. King’s call to serve and are making a difference in the lives of Middlesex County residents,” said Shakila Woltz, the AmeriCorps Program Manager of the Jewish Renaissance Foundation. “A resourceful way to meet local needs, volunteer service is a powerful tool that builds strong communities. We are putting the core American principles of citizenship and service into action.”

The JRF AmeriCorps program is seeking for eager individuals to serve. AmeriCorps is a community-based, service learning initiative that recruits, trains, and places members in agencies throughout Middlesex, Bergen, Essex, Union & Monmouth counties, improving the quality of education and community assistance programs. For more information about how to become a member or become a host site, contact Shakila Woltz, AmeriCorps Program Manager, at (732) 324-2114 x 120 or by email at Shakila.Woltz@jrfnj.org.

About the Jewish Renaissance Foundation

The Jewish Renaissance Foundation was established in 1995 as a faith-based, nonprofit corporation with central offices located at The Proprietary House, 149 Kearny Avenue in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. As a Community Action Agency, we strive to overcome poverty and hopelessness throughout Middlesex County

East; an area that encompasses the cities of Carteret, Edison, Highland Park, Metuchen, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy and Woodbridge. We believe in changing lives by creating hope and self-sufficiency, and we succeed by providing individuals, children and families with essential health and human services, community development and youth programs. For additional information on the Foundation, please visit www.jrfnj.org.

About The Cathedral International

Formerly known as the historic Second Baptist Church, Cathedral International celebrated 110 years of ministry three months ago. Under the leadership of Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr., the 5,000-member, multigenerational, multicultural church serves the communities of Perth Amboy, Asbury Park and Plainfield. Bishop Hilliard celebrates 32 years of pastoral leadership at Cathedral International this year. For additional information, log onto www.cathedralinternational.org.

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