



JEWISH RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

Upcoming Events:

PAAC - PAAC will be hosting several activities in the month of August at the Francis Street Park located at 966 Francis St. in Perth Amboy. "Movie Night" will occur on August 8th from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm. "Paint and Sip in the Park" will occur on August 15th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm and "Unwind in the Park" on August 29th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. All PAAC events are open to the public. Contact Lorraine Mejias at 732-324-2114 (ext. 114) for more information.

Bayside FSC - The Bayside Family Success Center will be hosting Optical Academy on August 15th at 500 Dobranski Drive Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The event will feature a complete on-site Optical Shop (eye exams, glasses, contacts, sunglasses, and accessories). Eye exams are \$30 with another \$30 added for contact exams. Frames and lenses start at \$29. All insurances are accepted.

Register online by visiting <https://optical-academy.com/events/bayside-family-success-center-1/> or call 1-800-530-2730.

Did you know?

More than 28 million people rely on HRSA-funded health centers like the JRF's Community Health Center for care. That's 1 in every 12 individuals and 1 in 9 children .

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August is Federally Qualified Health Center Month

Nearly 1,400 health centers that operate approximately 12,000 sites across the country.—
HRSA Health Center Program



Our Programs and Events

Silver Linings : The Silver Linings My Choice Store has been a rousing success! In our first week of operation twenty-three families were provided with free produce with assistance from the Emerging Leaders. To date, a total of sixty four seniors have been screened and approved to receive free produce and toiletries once a month moving forward. In addition, Silver Linings has also partnered with Wellspring and The Edison Housing Authority to engage Senior Residence in a game of Jeopardy. The purpose of this event is to educate seniors on stress management, coping skills, nutrition, exercise, and anxiety.

SBYSP : The Summer Bridge Program was a success this year. With the financial support of the Perth Amboy Board of Education, a total of twenty-six students participated in the program which included staff lead workshops, guest speakers and college tours to Kean University and The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). Students were able to familiarize themselves to the Perth Amboy High School Main Campus and learn how to navigate high school life as well as gain valuable insight from current and former graduates, before beginning school in September. Students were also able to learn about the various programs, activities and support services offered to them at Perth Amboy High School.

Bayside Family Success Center : In July the Bayside FSC hosted a number of events including: Family Field Day, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Dad's Night Out! Family Field Day was open to the entire Perth Amboy community with focus given to the Dunlap Neighborhood residents. This event was sponsored by Horizon NJ Health and a total of thirty families participated in the fun and healthy activities such as dancing for your healthy. Family Field Day wouldn't be complete if we didn't enjoy some healthy BBQ. FSC also partnered with Brain Injury Alliance to provide a workshop on bicycle and pedestrian safety whereby both parents and seniors were in attendance. Finally, in partnership with Domino's Pizza, FSC hosted a Dad's Night Out! This monthly initiative encourages healthy relationships between fathers/ father figures and their children.



Alternative Education Institute

Recently in July, AEI participants shared in an afternoon that was focused on promoting healthy living. Students had an opportunity to play volleyball against staff. Not sure who won! One thing we are sure about is that Cohort 31 will test at the end of August on the 26th, 27th & 28th. We wish all our participants good luck we know that they have worked hard towards their high school diploma.

Comfort Partners

The Comfort Partners Program has begun working on another project to remove weatherization barriers. The program is currently in search of more eligible households to receive repairs. If you believe you may be eligible please reach out to Greg Nelms at 732-324-2114 ext. 109.

Health Center

In celebration of Health Center Week, the JRFCHC partnered with the Edison Housing Authority on August 7th at the Robert Holmes Gardens on Samuel Carpenter Blvd. The event featured free vision screenings, blood screenings, BMI calculations, activities for children, fresh fruits and vegetables, giveaways and Health Insurance marketplace information to all housing residents. We would like to thank Wellcare, United Health Care and our own AmeriCorps Members and Emerging Leaders for all their support.

SBYSP Spotlight!

School base impacted my high school experience so much. The moment I signed up for school base my freshman year I didn't know I would have grown a strong attachment to the program and the people there. It gave me a place where I felt 110% comfortable to cry or to laugh about anything that was going on with my life whether it would be school related or outside of school. School base served as one of my main support systems as well as a resource for the real world (college). I would

describe school base as a full package: you can get help with college things (filling out FAFSA), cry about school stressing you out, or simply just laugh with the amazing people there. One thing I will take with me is a conversation I had with Eridania where I was extremely upset over not being selected for a program. She helped me grow from that experience and taught me to "trust the process". Three words which gave so much patience and strength throughout the remainder of

I will never forget school base and the AMAZING people there who made my high school experience 20x better.

Natalie '19



AmeriCorps Featured Member of the Month

JRF would like to introduce you to Elijah Williams, an AmeriCorps member serving as a Community Health Workers. Elijah is currently in his third term with AmeriCorps although this is his first year with the JRF. He enjoys music and working with children as he spent his previous terms of service in with kids. Elijah has aspirations of a future in broadcasting in sports and marketing. Elijah describes his AmeriCorps experience as a great

opportunity to learn about people and how to interact with them. The JRF is happy to have Elijah onboard and is happy he has joined our family of service providers.



Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders have been fulfilling their three health initiatives this summer by addressing food insecurity, water safety and community beautification. Lead by Cecilia Gonzalez and Tobi Raji the Emerging Leaders have been at Caledonia Park daily passing out lunches. So far they have passed out 416 meals to youth ages 18 and younger. In addition, The Silver Linings My Choice Store has had plenty of help from the Emerging Leaders who have assisted the seniors who are coming to pick up produce. The Emerging Leaders have passed out 20 lead testing kits to Perth Amboy residents to determine if their household water is contaminated. Finally, the youth have spent time gardening, sweeping, watering and yarn bombing at the PAAC Community Garden!

