



2025 Gloucester County Public Employees Charitable Campaign

TESTIMONIALS

Thor was surrendered to us on June 5th, 2025. Weighing 0.37 pounds at under 4 weeks old, medical care was critical to his survival. Within his first few minutes here he had a full veterinary exam and was stabilized. Due to his size, it was deemed Thor needed to stay with our Shelter Medical team to be able to receive the around-the-clock care he needed. Within the next few weeks, he quickly learned to eat from the bottle, and was neutered and microchipped. On July 22nd, Thor was deemed strong enough to move to our cat condos. That same day, just a few hours later, his forever family took one look at Thor's tiny face and knew they had to bring him home! **Animal Welfare Association**

For 70 years, **CHC: Creating Healthier Communities** has been dedicated to running workplace giving campaigns that connect companies with causes that matter. We've seen firsthand how impactful these contributions are—providing nonprofits with the steady, reliable funding they need to serve communities effectively. Workplace giving is more than a donation—it's a lifeline. When employees give regularly, whether \$2 or \$200 per paycheck, their combined generosity creates lasting change. It gives nonprofits the financial stability to plan, adapt, and reach more people in need. Every gift, big or small, helps build healthier, more equitable communities. "We partner with CHC: Creating Healthier Communities to expand our reach across the state and connect with those who understand the power of emotional support during a cancer journey. CHC's workplace giving campaigns help keep our free programs accessible to families facing cancer." – **CHC:Creating Healthier Communities**

Funds from the South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal, go to give a spiritual blanket of Catholic Comfort to those who find themselves unexpectedly forgotten, lonely, depressed, and sick, in a hospital setting. Being in a hospital alone, can be unfamiliar and isolating. To have the hospital chaplaincy supported 100% by this appeal, we are able to provide chaplain care at every hospital in all six counties of South Jersey, including Gloucester.

In particular, at Atlantic Care Regional: an Associate Chaplain visited a patient in a shocked, extremely agitated state. The visit was done at the request of a hospital staff member. After a short time visiting the patient, with the Eucharist present, and the presence of the Lord working through the Chaplain, helped the patient relax, calm down and prevail in spiritual comfort. A calm nature had shone through after the chaplains visit. The patient was in much need of spiritual healing and this program provided support in times of nervousness and anxiety. **Diocese of Camden;South Jersey Catholic Ministries Appeal**

"The **Emmanuel Cancer Foundation** restored my faith in humanity, pouring out unconditional love and support to my whole family during the physical and emotional struggles we went through."—**Emmanuel Cancer Foundation Mom**

Maria, a 32-year-old mother of two, had always put her family's needs before her own. Between working two part-time jobs and caring for her children, she hadn't had a routine check-up in years. Like many struggling to make ends meet, Maria was uninsured and worried about the cost of medical care. When she started experiencing persistent bleeding she knew she couldn't wait any longer.

Thanks to United Way of Gloucester County funding, Maria was able to schedule an appointment without worrying about cost. During her visit, the **Famcare** clinician performed a gynecologic exam, breast exam, and Pap test. Based on her Pap results, Maria was scheduled for a colposcopy and ultrasound, with the costs covered by United Way funding. The Famcare clinical team removed precancerous cells. She now has access to ongoing care and resources through Famcare, including follow-up visits and health education on preventive care. Without this support, many women like Maria might delay or forgo critical medical care, putting their health at risk. **Famcare (United Way of Gloucester County)**

"I am living with multiple sclerosis and getting out my front door and off my porch was a big challenge that **Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity** rectified. That day was my personal Independence Day because now that I have those ramps, I have the freedom to be able to get out of my front door and off my porch all by myself. The one thing that I need to share is my gratitude and appreciation because they brought their energy their effort, their expertise and their giant hearts to my house." - Bernice Murray, Rock the Block Partner Family 2024 **Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity**

Jimmy is a happy, kind young man who has been part of the **HollyDELL Adult Program** for more than 10 years. He lives with his brother and his brother's girlfriend, and while at the program he expresses his interests and continues to sharpen his daily living skills. Although naturally shy, Jimmy is thoughtful and often asks his peers if they need assistance.

For many years, Jimmy preferred not to go out into the community, but over time he has truly come out of his shell. Now, he enjoys group outings and says, "I like going on outings because I get to hang out with my friends." His favorite trips include visits to the mall, farmers market, or Citizens Bank Park. Jimmy also attends Get Fit at Rowan University twice a week with his peers, where he participates in physical fitness activities. This program has been rewarding for both Jimmy and his caregivers, as he is now more content, open to trying new things, and physically fit. **HollyDell**

Iryna, 77, is a retired teacher from a small village in Ukraine that was devastated by war. After enduring heavy shelling and being forced to flee, she returned to find her home destroyed. With the help of the IRC, she received psycho-social support through art, helping her regain hope and a sense of community. The **IRC** organized an art course where Iryna learned to paint using coffee, a creative process that not only allowed her to express herself but also brought emotional relief. During the course, Iryna created artwork that she felt deeply connected to, including a protective charm of a girl, which she said reminded her of the great-grandchildren she had not yet met. These moments of artistic expression offered her a way to cope with her trauma and regain a sense of normalcy, helping lift her spirits and foster a sense of community among the participants. **International Rescue Committee (Global Impact)**

Paska, at just 19, is a quiet young woman. The strength of her love and attachment to her family, especially her daughter, Keisi, is clear. Paska shared her memories of traveling to Uganda from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "I came from the Congo, and we arrived here in 2008 when I was 5," Paska explains. "I don't remember much about Congo because I was a child. We left home because of the constant war and the family members we lost. The journey was very long. I remember feeling like we had spent forever walking. We were picked up by a truck and entered Uganda." Paska grew up in a long-term refugee settlement in Uganda. Paska says, "I live with my husband and my daughter. I love them, and they're my life. I love my mother, too, because she raised me, took care of me and is always there to help me when I need her. My family is the most important to me." When Keisi, her daughter, came down with a high fever, Paska was worried. Keisi has struggled with her health before, and it scares Paska every time she isn't well. "Before coming to the clinic, I was worried because Keisi had lost appetite and was constantly crying. She didn't want anyone else to

carry her, so I could hardly do anything else. Her body felt very hot, too. Her temperature just kept on increasing.”“I got to know about **Medical Teams** when we moved to Kyangwali settlement,” Paska shares. “I started going to the health facility, and I was told all services were free because of Medical Teams. Usually when I bring Keisi to the facility, she is assessed by a doctor, they take her blood sample to do a test and let me know what the problem is.”This trip to the clinic was no different. Keisi had malaria again, a dangerous illness for children — and one that can be hard to avoid in Uganda. Medical Teams staff jumped into action to treat Keisi. After her rapid malaria test confirmed that she had malaria, she was quickly given anti-malarial medication. Soon, she was able to eat again. Paska was relieved. Health workers monitored Keisi to make sure she was well again before they went home.Paska doesn’t take her or her daughter’s health for granted. She says, “My biggest joy is when I open my eyes every morning, and I’m still alive. Looking at my daughter fills me with so much joy. Thank you, Medical Teams, for your support to us. May God bless you all.”

Medical Teams International ~ Global Impact

Training and Treatment Innovations was able to launch the Pet Companion Crisis Care Program when they received a grant from **PetSmart Charities**. “I’m a pet owner times two dozen, so I’m always at PetSmart buying something,” says Jaqueline. “When I found out about the grant, I was really excited!” Kevin says, “These funds have allowed us to deliver pet food, leashes and collars, flea medicines, and other supplies to people who don’t have access to what their pets need. Plus, we’ve been able to continue boarding animals when individuals need it and provide medical care to animals in need.”(***PetSmart Charities ~ America’s Charities***)

Jolee, from Newfield NJ, living with the challenges of level 3 severe autism, experienced the joy and wonder of Disney World. Jolee’s mom expressed her heartfelt gratitude, saying, “I cannot thank the generous donors and **Sunshine Foundation** enough for this amazing dream trip. My family and I really, truly appreciate it!”**Sunshine Foundation**

Because of your generosity, we raised vital funds to support UNCF’s mission—and our scholars—like Cristian Simms, our student speaker, who shared the following reflection on UNCF’s impact: “So, what exactly has **UNCF** done for me? They have given me something to believe in, something nobody can take away from me and that is the HOPE for a better tomorrow.” **United Negro College Foundation (UNCF)**

Hiwot Hiluf, a woman from the Tigray Region, lives in Hiwane town, 60 kilometers (50 miles) from Mekelle city. She is a 28-year-old mother of two. Her entire world upended by the conflict that broke out in the region in November. She used to reside in Adama, changed her mind and went back to her hometown. Her decision was for her safety and that of her children. Little did she know that her choice would pose challenges and test her strength and mental well-being. The Tigray armed conflict started on November 3, 2020 and took a toll on Hiwot's mental health. As the situation worsened, Hiwot succumbed to stress and anger. Isolated and neglected by those around her, she recalls, "I completely lost my mind, and because of the chronic stress, I thought I would end up on the street."Amidst the hardship, Hiwot's journey took a positive turn when she discovered that the Women and Girls’ Safe Space (WGSS) initiative was formed in Hiwane town. It was established by World Vision Ethiopia, and funding for the project was provided by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). The safe space serves as an area where women and girls can socialize and rebuild their social networks, acquire contextually relevant skills, and access multi-sectorial GBV response services and information on issues relating to women’s rights, health, and services. A volunteer woman in the town played a pivotal role in connecting women like Hiwot with the safe space."Having understood my situation, the volunteer informed me about the psychological support the safe space offers and advised me to join and I did," Hiwot says. In the safe space, Hiwot shared

her mental health challenges with others. "I informed Mihret, the protection officer, about my mental health, and she gave me psychological advice and encouragement to stay strong," she says. Soon, her case was referred to a specialist doctor, treated and recovered. Additionally, Hiwot was granted financial assistance to help cover medical expenses. Gradually, she recovered from her mental disorder. "After my recovery, I was determined to serve other victims as a mentor to teach fellow women and girls, leading and giving them a helping hand." Utilizing the money saved from her medical expenses, she started a tailoring shop, rented a sewing machine, and purchased supplies and accessories. Hiwot is sewing bed sheets and garments, which she sells in the local market and generates income from to support her children. Hiwot is very thankful for the WGSS initiative, emphasizing the impact of social workers and fellow participants who helped her handle her emotional wellness, empower her, and be up to who she is today. She attends the safe space programme twice a week, which she considers a source of psychological relief and spiritual connection with other women facing similar challenges. "A woman should have confidence in herself and believe that she can overcome challenges. The Women and Girls Safe Space initiative has given me such good thoughts and self-confidence," she concludes. Her story stands out as being of crucial importance and encouragement.

World Vision ~ Global Impact