



THE "MARQUEE" - CYO NEWSLETTER

"Serving Mercer County Youth Since 1952"

CYO of Mercer County

Fall/Winter 2020

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CYO PIVOTS TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY, TURNS A CHALLENGING PERIOD INTO A PRODUCTIVE TIME!

As the world was turned upside down and times changed dramatically, the CYO changed too, adjusting to how we serve the community! For five and a half months our pre-schools, before and after schools, summer camps, athletic programs, and many more important family and community programs and special events, all of which defined the CYO for 68 years, came to an screeching halt.

The CYO pivoted to new ways to serve the community and for those in need. Our Pre-Schools went virtual and we kept the students engaged with face to face computer work. We honored our graduates with drive by salutes and diplomas. Our Bromley Food Pantry surged with scores of new family sign ups, and the Bromley Summer Lunch Program operated for 59 days handing out lunches, and we added an educational healthy eating component distributing fruits and vegetables to the Bromley residents. Our Broad St. and East State St. Center provided daily grab and go lunches for hundreds of people! We found partnerships to feed the hungry, needy and those out of work. Partnerships and Grants included Mercer Street Friends, Arm In Arm, Wawa, Albertson's, and Princeton Area Community Foundation, Trenton YMCA, RWJ Barnabas, Snipes Farm, Bishop Ahr Endowment Fund, FEMA Emergency Fund, Hamilton Township, United Way, and many individuals made generous monetary donations! The CYO was able to bring food security to thousands during the pandemic and relieve some stress to those we served throughout.

When late August rolled around and many needed to get back to work, we decided it was time to safely re-open our Yardville and Ewing Pre-Schools, and offer new programming at Yardville, South Broad St., and East State St. Centers for Remote Learners when students weren't in school (something we have never done before), following all safety protocols and procedures! Comcast stepped up in this effort and provided free "Lift Zones" to expand our internet access at both of our Trenton Centers. The CYO thanks them and everyone who helped us help the community and re-open!

HELP SUPPORT THE CYO THROUGH GIVING TUESDAY

#GivingTuesday refers to the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and is a movement to create a day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season. This year, #GivingTuesday will take place December 1. Please help support the CYO as we prepare to provide parties and presents for our community and feed those suffering from food insecurity. Please visit our website at cyomercer.org and then to donations page to make a secure on-line donation, or tear off the donation form below and mail a check to: CYO Center, 920 South Broad St., Trenton, NJ 08611.

CYO Giving Tuesday Donation Form

Name of Donor: _____ Address of Donor: _____

E-mail address of Donor: _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION:

\$50 _____ **\$100** _____ **\$250** _____ **\$500** _____ **\$1,000** _____ **Other amount** _____

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CYO

Care2Share

Investors Bank Care2Share Affinity Program gives back to your favorite non-profit. Simply enroll your eligible Investors accounts with Mercer County CYO and we will receive .25% donation annually from the bank.

Amazon Smile

You can support the CYO by doing your regular shopping with Amazon, as they will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to CYO. The CYO'S unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2054324>

TD Bank Accounts

If you have an account at TD Bank, TD will make a contribution to the CYO. An annual contribution based on the average balance in all members' accounts, including checking, savings, money market, CD, and retirement funds. All you need to do is visit any TD Bank location and ask to have your balances included in part of "CYO of Mercer's Affinity Membership Program."



CYO Board of Trustees and Executive Director tour the Yardville Pool House

PROUD TO ANNOUNCE COMPLETION OF NEW YARDVILLE POOL HOUSE!

The CYO is proud to announce the completion of its new Yardville Pool House! The new pool house replaces the small and outdated one built in 1958. The pool house is a two story, 5,000 square foot, handicapped accessible structure that turned out more beautiful than expected! The first floor includes much larger changing areas with several privacy stalls, restroom facilities and showers. The second floor will provide staff restroom, lifeguard locker room, office, and grand space for meetings, year round programming, and additional Day Camp space! There is an outside upper deck area for families to observe children during evening swim lessons, or relaxation time during a group rental. The new pool house will enhance the Day Camp as swimming is a huge part of camp and this new construction allows for an overall better aquatic experience!

CYO DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Clockwise from top left: 1 CYO Staffers pick up food from the Robbinsville/Hamilton Rotary; 2 CYO Yardville Pre-School teachers drive by with graduation diplomas; 3 CYO Ewing Pre-School teachers get ready for students drive by graduation; 4 Arm in Arm at CYO South Broad Street for lunch distribution; 5 CYO Bromley Farm to Family program in partnership with RWJ Barnabas and Snipes Farms.; 6 Residents line up in front of CYO South Broad Street for free lunch distribution through the help of Arm in Arm and Trenton YMCA; 7 Farm to Family clients showing their fresh fruits and vegetables; 8 Arm in Arm readies to unload lunches to be served at CYO East State Street Center.



CYO ATHLETICS



The presentation of the Renee Keister Award, left to right Robert Donaldson, CYO East State Street Program Director, Leianya Massenat (Trenton HS) recipient of the Renee Keister Award, and Tom Mladenetz, CYO Executive Director.



The presentation of the Jack Cryan Award to Keith Motusesky from Robbinsville High and his mother.



Presentation of the John "Mincey" Manzak CYO Referee of the Year Award to Rick Garzillo, left, and Patrick Hardiman, CYO Yardville Director standing to the right.

CYO RE-OPENS



CYO Yardville remote learning.



CYO Yardville Pre-School Re-opens.



CYO Pee Wee Soccer Re-starts.



CYO S. Broad St. remote learning.

CYO EWING RE-OPENS WITH NEW PROTOCOLS

On Monday, August 31, 2020, Ewing CYO Pre-School reopened after being closed since March 16 when the COVID-19 crisis first emerged. We are currently operating with 20 children in two classrooms and 2 staff members in each room. We also have some volunteer assistance from two wonderful ladies from the federal Foster Grandparents Program. They are each assigned exclusively to one classroom and provide assistance with the new daily check in procedure as well as all of the extra cleaning, surface disinfecting and hand washing that must now be done due to the virus.

Our new school year, while different from years past, is shaping up to be a good one. Children and staff have remained healthy due to cooperation between both our center and our families to make sure that all of the health & safety rules associated with COVID 19 are being followed. Our staff is wearing masks all day and the children are wearing masks in the classroom at all times except during rest time and meals. We have also eliminated masks for the children when they are playing outside because we found that the masks would slip around and posed a safety hazard when the children were running.

Check in and check out of the center is a bit different than in years past. Parents may not enter the building and are asked to wait outside the door until a temperature check and health assessment is completed on their child. They are also asked a series of health related questions each day to determine whether the child or the family poses a risk for COVID 19 emerging at our center. Staff members are also subject to the same procedure we are following with the children every day. When parents arrive to pick up their children, each classroom is equipped with a walkie talkie as are the office and whoever is manning the table at the front. When a parent arrives, the classroom will get a call on the walkie talkie and then one of the staff members will bring the child to the front door where a parent/guardian can sign them out for the day.

We held a Virtual Back to School Night on Wednesday, October 13. This consisted of a Zoom meeting where the parents of each class met separately with their child's teachers and then joined together for a short session on policies and procedures from the directors. We have never done this before and are working hard to make sure it helps parents feel comfortable with our program and how it operates.

We are confident that we will be able to keep our center up and running and our children and staff healthy. Still we long for the day when all of this becomes a distant memory and our center can operate normally once again!

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**CYO OF MERCER COUNTY
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Ewing Administrative Director

Debbie Kirschenbaum

East State Street Program Director

Robert Donaldson

Ewing Education Director

Patricia Staltari

CYO RECEIVES PROJECT INNOVATION GRANT

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of Mercer County recently received a 2020 Project Innovation grant from NBC10, Telemundo62 & Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation, along with 6 other organizations in the greater Philadelphia market & 62 non-profit entities in 10 other markets across the Country.

Launched in 2018, Project Innovation supports qualified nonprofit organizations that are using innovation to advance communities in the areas of storytelling, community engagement, culture of inclusion & youth education.

“Our grant program is set up to amplify the already great work that non-profits are doing to help their communities. We are certain that our 2020 Project Innovation grant winners will do all they can to support their neighbors, particularly during this very challenging time,” added Jessica Clancy, Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, NBCUniversal.

The \$45K grant will provide funds to CYO’s private subsidy program, allowing more low & moderate-income families who don’t qualify for public subsidies to access critically needed childcare & youth development programs.

“We are thrilled to partner with NBCUniversal & are extremely grateful for this very generous award. It will allow us to help more families participate in CYO’s childcare & enrichment activities,” said CYO Executive Director, Tom Mladenetz.

GRANTS AWARDED SINCE LAST MARQUEE 4/16/20 - 10/20/20

- Albertsons Families Companies Foundation: award for Bromley Summer Food program, 7/20.
- Berkshire Bank: award for Broad Out-of-School (OSP) program, 9/20.
- Bishop Ahr Endowment Fund: award for Trenton food programs, 7/20.
- Church & Dwight: award for Trenton food programs, 10/20.
- Comcast NBCUniversal: award for private subsidy program, 5/20.
- Dombal-Vogel Foundation: award for ESSC Out-of-School (OSP) program, 6/20.
- FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program: award for Bromley Food Pantry, 7/20.
- Hamilton Twp.: award for Bromley COVID-19 response, 7/20.
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals: award for Broad Out-of-School (OSP) program, 9/20.
- NJ Department of Children & Families: award for Broad, ESSC, Ewing & Yardville COVID-19 PPE needs, 7/20.
- NJ Pandemic Relief Fund: award for COVID-19 recovery, 7/20.
- United Way of Greater Mercer County: award for Bromley Food Pantry, 9/20.
- Wawa Foundation: award for Bromley Food Pantry, 5/20.