

National Council of Jewish Women  
Bergen County Section  
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**NCJW MAKES SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN GRANTS  
THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE BERGEN COMMUNITY**

The National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section (NCJW BCS), a non-profit organization that has been at the forefront of social change in Bergen County for almost a century, will be awarding over \$70,000 in grants to Bergen County organizations that support women, children and families. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

The grant monies represent a major increase in funding over the previous year. The organization attributes this increase to the generosity of NCJW BCS members and donors, and increased revenue from The Council Thrift Shop in Bergenfield.

NCJW provides not only funding but a dedicated group of volunteers to the recipient agencies, and the grants support, in part, a wide range of vital programs and services to the local community. At Bergen Family Center, two grants will support a social day care program for visually impaired adults and other seniors and programming for the 100 children of HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters), whose parents are trained to be their children's first teachers. The Center for Food Action provides emergency food, rent and utility assistance to those in need, while the Center for Hope and Safety provides counseling, support services, safe shelter, transitional housing and community outreach to women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

NCJW supports programs at the Jewish Home at Rockleigh, provides volunteers to run the gift shop and brightens the seniors' lives with lively parties throughout the year, including Valentine's Day, Coney Island Day and Chanukah. At Project S.A.R.A.H. (Stop Abusive Relationships at Home), the funding supports the organization's program of domestic violence and sexual abuse counseling, treatment and community education with unique emphasis on the Orthodox Jewish community. A grant to the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI) helps the facility provide free medical care for working, low-income Bergen County residents who have no health insurance.

Financing and volunteers for the Swim-In program support a therapeutic water exercise program for people with multiple sclerosis, co-sponsored with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The funding from NCJW will help the Women's Rights Information Center (WRIC) continue to provide a warm and welcoming environment for women facing economic and social barriers in their lives. Shared Housing, Career Service and Computer Training are among the many programs WRIC offers.

Two grants to the Youth Consultation Service (YCS) support YCS Holley Child Care and Development Center, a residential treatment facility for emotionally and/or physically abused children in crisis and YCS Kilbarchan, a residential treatment home for adolescents. Another program which receives support from NCJW is Summer Campership which provides funds for scholarships for low-income children in Bergen County.

Funding for the grants is raised from a variety of sources: individual contributions, special events, the Council Thrift Shop, community businesses, membership dues, foundations and bequests. NCJW receives no government funding. Sue Kanrich, Vice President of Community Service, says, "NCJW BCS is proud to contribute to these amazing agencies with both our financial contribution and our strong volunteer presence. Each agency makes Bergen County a more viable place to live and NCJW BCS is proud of the role we play."

National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section is proud to celebrate its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. It is a New Jersey section of NCJW, Inc., a national organization whose work is grounded in a faith in the future and a belief in action. The Bergen Section comprises over 1,000 members, aged 20 - 80+, who are committed to advocacy, enhancing lives through community service, education and philanthropy. Partnering with 17 non-sectarian Bergen County community service organizations, NCJW BCS reaches out to all members of the population with innovative programs and scholarships that provide education, food, companionship, information and financial support. In addition, the organization provides educational and stimulating programs and speakers throughout the year, including six general meetings and a myriad of study groups, book groups and cultural trips. For more information on NCJW BCS and its upcoming programs and advocacy initiatives, please visit <http://www.ncjwbcs.org>.

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