

# JUDICIARY TIMES

A Publication of the  New Jersey Courts

Winter 2014-2015

## Forever Homes

# Hundreds of Adoptions Finalized Throughout N.J.

*Editors Note: Each quarter, the Judiciary Times features stories focusing on a specific program or issue. This edition highlights Adoption Day festivities in several vicinages. National Adoption Day, held annually on the third Saturday in November, is an effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children waiting to find permanent homes and families.*

**By Melanie M. Nowling**  
Family Division Manager  
Passaic Vicinage

A total of 22 adoptions - the most ever on a National Adoption Day in the Passaic Vicinage - were finalized as the vicinage marked its 7<sup>th</sup> year of participation in the event on Nov. 21.

Judges Joseph A. Portelli and Richard M. Freid presided over the adoption hearings in the Passaic County Administration Building in Paterson.

Nineteen children and three adults were formally united with their forever families.

There were many touching moments throughout the day. After being told he was legally adopted, one child raised his hands to symbolize a football goalpost and said, "This is the best day of my life."

The families started their day in the jury assembly room with a continental breakfast and entertainment by magician Steve Woyce.

## Morris/Sussex Debuts Program for Special Needs Community

**By Janie Rodriguez**  
Ombudsman  
Morris-Sussex Vicinage

The Morris/Sussex Vicinage has begun a new combined internship and volunteer program, the first of its kind in the Judiciary, in keeping with the court's commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and equal access.

The Special Needs Internship and Volunteer Program gives young adults on the autism spectrum, or facing other developmental disabilities, the opportunity to learn about the courts, obtain hands-on work experience, and serve



Judge Damon G. Tyner gives a boy a toy truck after the child's adoption was finalized on Nov. 21 at the Atlantic County Civil Courts Building in Atlantic City. The child's adoption was one of hundreds in New Jersey finalized as part of National Adoption Day.

After the adoptions were completed, families were shuttled to the Planet 301 family entertainment center in the Center City Mall in Paterson to celebrate at a reception featuring a magician, face painting and arts and crafts. Each child received tokens for the arcade games and gift bags. Costumed princesses and action figures greeted and posed with the children.

Prior to the celebration, Family Presiding Judge Greta Gooden Brown congratulated the families and spoke about

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Judge Paula T. Dow (top left) poses with the Harrison-Gordon family after finalizing the adoptions of two children Terry Lynn Gordon, 4, bottom, second from left, and Jhaeel Gordon, 1½, sitting on his mother's lap, at the Burlington County Courthouse in Mount Holly on Nov. 21.

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## Morris/Sussex Begins Program for Special Needs Community

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the community by performing tasks appropriate to their skills and abilities.

Under the leadership of Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck and Trial Court Administrator Rashad Shabaka-Burns, the vicinage has joined several organizations that provide education and other services to people with developmental disabilities. Judge Maritza Berdote Byrne and attorney Paul Carvelli of McCusker, Anselmi, Rosen & Carvelli in Florham Park led the effort to create the program.

New Jersey has one of the highest rates of autism in the nation, yet this segment of the population is often underserved. Students eligible for special education and related services receive them only to age 21. Beyond that age, vocational opportunities are scarce, and unemployment often results.

However, young adults on the autism spectrum have a range of skills and can



Scott Schlosser (center), a participant in the Morris/Sussex Vicinage Special Needs Program, was the first intern to receive a Kudos Award, an honor bestowed by the vicinage that recognized efforts and accomplishments that go above and beyond person's normal duties.

excel in areas requiring punctuality, consistency, reliability, and attention to detail.

Appropriately tailored internships can enhance their socialization skills and instill in them confidence and a sense of accomplishment, all in the context of a professional environment.

“Our program helps these young adults prepare themselves for mainstream employment, and it also provides meaningful experiences for vicinage staff so they are better able to interact with our growing special needs population,” Weisenbeck explained. “In addition, specialized training is being made available to staff and managers participating in the program. It’s a win-win for inclusiveness and quality service.”

In the program’s pilot phase, interns were placed in the human resources, municipal, civil, criminal, and probation divisions in the Morris County Courthouse. The tasks varied by division, including filing documents and organizing files, creating Excel spreadsheets for tracking statistics, assisting with report preparation, attending training sessions, and observing court proceedings.

The program’s goals of providing the increasing population of special needs young adults with valuable learning experiences and the opportunity to become productive members of the

workforce are well underway.

One of the participants, Scott Schlosser, became the first intern ever to receive a Kudos Award, a vicinage honor that recognizes efforts and accomplishments that go above and beyond the person’s normal duties.

“Scott has been a refreshing and charming addition to our cadre of young interns. He is always upbeat, positive and professional in attitude and demeanor,” Vicinage Chief Probation Officer Jonathan Bell said. “Seeing Scott’s smiling face and energetic personality each day gives incentive to other staff to have a similar view toward work.”

At the invitation of the vicinage, Morris County has agreed to participate in the program. Appropriate internship opportunities have been identified in the county Human Services and Employment Resources departments.

In the next phase, the program will be expanded to include opportunities for developmentally disabled adults who want to serve as volunteers.

“We are very excited with the success of this amazing program, which provides educational opportunities and practical skill development and allows special needs young adults to discover their own pathways to success,” said Trial Court Administrator Rashad Shabaka-Burns.

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The chief justice is Stuart Rabner. The acting administrative director of the courts is Judge Glenn A. Grant.

Please send short news articles, photos and suggestions to [Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us](mailto:Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us). Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

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## Whipple Moves from Morris/Sussex Vicinage to Appellate Bench

By **Tammy Kendig**

Communications Manager  
Administrative Office of the Courts

Superior Court Judge Mary Gibbons Whipple joined the Appellate Division effective Nov. 24, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced.

The Appellate Division of the Superior Court is New Jersey's intermediate appellate court. The 32 Appellate Division judges hear appeals from decisions of the trial courts, the Tax Court and state administrative agencies.

The Appellate Division generally decides between 6,000 and 6,500 appeals and about 8,500 motions each year.

Whipple holds a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross and a law degree from Seton Hall University Law School. She began her legal career as a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence A. Whipple.

She joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1982, focusing on civil litigation including environmental, employment and civil rights matters in the District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals.



Mary Gibbons Whipple

She went into private practice in 1986.

She was a partner at Arseneault, Whipple, Fassett & Azzarello when she was named to the Superior Court by Gov. Jon Corzine in 2010.

She served in the family division of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage until 2013, when she moved to the criminal division. She had served on temporary assignment to the Appellate Division since September.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to have served with my colleagues in Morris and Sussex County and I am honored to be selected for this assignment," said Whipple. "I look forward to this exciting new challenge."

### Morris/Sussex Begins Internship Program

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Judiciary and county participants in the program include Judge Rosemary Ramsay, civil division presiding judge; Susan Chait, human resources manager; Phyllis Hornstra, operations division manager; Janie Rodriguez, ombudsman; and Cathy Burd, assistant Morris County administrator.

External partners include attorney Patrice LeTourneau, Rick Goryeb and Kathleen Selvaggi-Fadden of the Goryeb Children's Hospital, David Sidener and Allison Neaman of the Garden Academy, Thomas Beese of the Newmark School, Margaret Hefferly of the Child Development Center at Morristown Memorial Hospital, and Elizabeth Manley of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.

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## Salem County Stages Active Shooter Preparedness Drill

By **Tina DiNicola**

Operations Division Manager  
Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem  
Vicinage

Two disgruntled litigants armed with guns converged on the Salem County Courthouse in the middle of the afternoon on Oct. 24.

Shots could be heard in the courthouse, and a flurry of emergency response vehicles and personnel converged around the building. The section of Market Street in front of the court-house was cordoned off and no parking was permitted.

No one was hurt.

In fact, the scenario was an active shooter drill designed to test the response of emergency responders and Judiciary staff who occupy the

courthouse.

The drill was a coordinated effort of the Salem County Sheriff's Department, the Salem County Office of Emergency Management, and local law enforcement and emergency responders.

"It was good practice to go through this exercise because we learned to be aware of our surroundings, and an active shooter situation is different than your typical fire drill evacuation," Jury Manager Diane Westcott said.

The exercise was the culmination of several security enhancement efforts made by the sheriff's department over the last year.

In addition to physical security improvements, the department and others have been working with court-

house staff on safety and emergency preparedness.

There have been evacuation exercises, tests of the emergency Code Red alert system and training sessions for employees.

The planning for the exercise began more than seven months ago.

There was no shortage of attention to detail and preparedness at every phase of the exercise.

There were additional security officers staffing the courthouse as if there was a real emergency at the courthouse during the exercise.

Judiciary staff was prepared for the drill, although no one knew what the scenario would be. Those details were known

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## Smiles and Celebrations Punctuate Adoption Day in N.J.

**By Sarah J. Chavez**  
Administrative Specialist 1  
Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage

The Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage held Adoption Day celebrations on Nov. 20 in Cape May County and Nov. 21 in Atlantic County. The vicinage finalized the adoption of 30 children into their forever homes.

There were many stories among the newly formed families. An emergency room nurse adopted a brother and sister she had fostered for some time, finalizing their family on her birthday.

She opted to change the children's names so they would have the same middle name.

"I wanted them to have something that bonded them together forever, when I am gone each other will be all they have," she said.

A couple adopted a child, the sibling to another child they had adopted previously. They each raised three children of their own before marrying and raising three children together.

Now with nine adult children, they adopted two younger children and plan to adopt the pair's younger sibling in the future.

An adoption was finalized for a safe

haven child given up anonymously at the hospital. The New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act ensures the safety of infants when parents decide to relinquish their parental rights.

The laws were enacted to remove the possibility of prosecution of the birth parent so long as the child was given unharmed to authorities.

One of the most compelling stories was of a family, with three natural children, that finalized adoptions in both counties. The family fosters children with special needs.

The first adoption was of a child they had in their home since she was released from the hospital.

The child was born weighing only 1.7 pounds, a "micro-preemie," as her adopted mother called her. The child battled the normal setbacks associated with such a premature birth, but persevered and is now a tiny but mighty 2-year old.

The family also fostered twin sisters, both with health and developmental challenges. One of the sisters was adopted this year and the other's adoption is slated for finalization in 2015.

**By Lila Maxwell and Sarah Hatcher**  
Administrative Specialists  
Essex Vicinage

The adoptions of more than 40 children were finalized during the Essex Vicinage's 13<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of National Adoption Day on Nov. 14.

Family Presiding Judge Sallyanne Floria and Superior Court Judges Stephen J. Bernstein, Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Wayne J. Forrest, and Marysol Rosero finalized the adoptions.

The children and their siblings received a book and a stuffed animal after their hearings.

Following the proceedings, families enjoyed a reception at Rutgers School of Law-Newark that was sponsored by the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). The festivities included a cupcake table, face painting, photographs and other child-friendly activities.

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## Passaic Finalizes Record Number of Adoptions

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the significance of the day.

The day was the result of collaboration between the Judiciary, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), the Office of the Public Defender-Law Guardian Program, the Passaic County Surrogate's Office and the Passaic County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Donations were made by the Passaic County Bar Association and the Girl Scouts. DCP&P raised funding through office fundraisers, donations and a lunchtime tricky tray. Staff from the agencies coordinated events, dressed up in costumes, painted faces, served food and assisted with arts and crafts.

The planning committee was spearheaded by Court Services Supervisor II Rosa Guardiola and DCP&P Casework Supervisor Victor Niedbalski.



Matthew and Emily D'Antuono of Ramsey are shown with retired Judge Richard M. Freid and the children the couple adopted, J'rai and Tyson ( front) following a ceremony at the Passaic County Courthouse in Paterson on Nov. 21. Adoption Day ceremonies were held throughout New Jersey to finalize thousands of adoptions and to celebrate families who adopt.

## 'There's Always Room for One More'- Adoption Day 2014

**By Dawn Carruth and Theresa Mahoney**

Assistant Family Division Managers  
Morris-Sussex Vicinage

The Morris/Sussex Vicinage held its second annual National Adoption Day celebrations in Morris and Sussex counties in November. A total of 28 adoptions were finalized.

The Morris County celebration took place on Nov. 14. Judge Maritza Berdote Byrne presided over 11 adoption finalization hearings. Beryl Lichter, area resource family specialist for the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), was the master of ceremonies.

The program began with opening remarks from Berdote Byrne. Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno spoke of her personal experience with adoption and encouraged others to adopt. "There is always room for one more," she said.

The keynote speech was delivered by Gabriel Blau, executive director of the Family Equality Council and an adoptive parent. There also were heartwarming speeches delivered by an adoptive parent and an adoptee.

The ceremony was followed by a reception for the adoptive families and guests. The event was cohosted by the vicinage, DCP&P, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Morris and Sussex Counties, Argentino & Jacobs, LLC, the Morris County Surrogate, and the New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House.

The vicinage celebrated National Adoption Day in Sussex County on Nov. 19. Judge James A. Farber presided over 17 adoptions.

The event began with welcoming remarks from Farber, Family Division Manager Kerri Lynn Walsh-Wood and Sussex County Surrogate Gary Chiusano.

The keynote speeches were given by an adoptee and her mother, who spoke of their experiences. Sussex County Freeholder Deputy Director Dennis J.



Morris/Sussex Vicinage Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck (left) and Trial Court Administrator Rashad Shabaka-Burns (second from left) listen to speakers during the Adoption Day program at the Morris County Courthouse in Morristown on Nov. 14. A young adoptee and two parents were among the speakers.

**By Betty Agin**

Librarian  
Middlesex Vicinage

Thanksgiving came early for many children and their families in Middlesex County.

Ten families were formed or expanded as adoption procedures for 16 children were finalized on National Adoption Day, Nov. 20, at the Middlesex County Courthouse in New Brunswick.

Assignment Judge Travis L. Francis described the observance of National Adoption Day as "the happiest day in the courthouse."

Attorney James P. Nolan Jr., chair of the Middlesex County Bar Foundation's National Adoption Day Committee, welcomed the families. Nolan coordinated the celebration.

The festivities began with an opening ceremony in Francis' courtroom. Judge Francis gave opening remarks with Middlesex County Surrogate Kevin J. Hoagland.

Hoagland said the county processes between 150 and 200 adoptions each year.

"We are very happy to participate in this national event," said Hoagland, whose office works with the Superior

Court, judges, lawyers and advocates to finalize adoptions.

Judge Robert Figarotta presided over the adoptions, which unfolded as a reception honoring the families was held just outside the courtroom. The bar foundation donated breakfast, toys and coloring books that were offered to the families during the reception.

Information on adoption was available for those interested in learning more about the adoption process

Nearly 4,500 children in foster care found their forever families during the 15th annual National Adoption Day celebration in about 400 cities across the United States. Thanks to the efforts of adoption advocates, policymakers, judges and lawyers, nearly 50,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day since 2000.

Middlesex Vicinage established its annual adoption celebration in 2007.

The program was co-hosted by the Middlesex Vicinage, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Middlesex County Bar Association and the Middlesex County Surrogate's Office.

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## Forever Families Formed As Adoptions Finalized in N.J.

By **Fern L. Varasano**

Court Services Supervisor II  
Monmouth Vicinage

Forever families were established for 26 children in the Monmouth Vicinage as the adoptions for 21 families were heard on Nov. 21. This marked the ninth year that the vicinage held an Adoption Day ceremony.

To provide a festive and child-friendly atmosphere for parents and children, adoptive families received a bouquet of flowers courtesy of the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) and were greeted by a DCP&P staff member dressed as the Cat in the Hat and a family division employee dressed as Winnie the Pooh.

“As a judge, you are mixed with a variety of different emotions as you are presented with different cases, but today is a beautiful and wonderful time,” Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton said in her welcoming remarks. “People who adopt are the most unselfish and loving people, and I appreciate the dedication these parents have for the children they are adopting.”

Presiding Family Judge Kathleen Sheedy said Adoption Day sheds light on New Jersey’s Safe Haven Infant Protection Act, which allows desperate new parents to give up their newborn legally and anonymously at an emergency room or police station for up to 30 days after the baby’s birth. The infant will then be placed into foster care.

### More Than 40 Children Adopted in Essex Ceremony

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Several agencies and organizations participated in the event, including DCP&P, CASA, the Essex County Surrogate’s Office, the Junior League of Montclair/Newark and the Help if You Care Club.

National Adoption Day provides judges, attorney’s, court professionals and child advocates the opportunity to come together as they witness the courtrooms fill with smiles as children

The keynote address was given by Manalapan Committeeman Ryan Green, a school social worker who, with his wife, adopted a baby girl. Green’s wife is manager of the DCP&P’s southern office.

“Adoption is a way of showing commitment to a child and expanding the love that already exists in one’s family,” Green said. “Our daughter Rebecca brings joy and light to our lives, and words cannot describe the happiness my wife and I feel to have her as a part of our family.” Bonnie Petruła, an adoptions clerk in the Monmouth County Surrogate’s Office, also spoke.

Petruła, who retired on Dec. 31 after 25 years of service, expressed joy over helping children and adults become a family.

Fern Varasano presented Petruła with an award on behalf of the Adoption Day Committee to thank her for her service and dedication.

The celebration continued in the rear jury room where refreshments were served and each child under 9 received a stuffed owl and a pin that read, “I am Special, I am Adopted.” Older children received gift cards. Each family was presented with a framed photo of their new family.

A table displaying information about the adoption process was set up in a hallway outside the jury room. Two employees from the Monmouth County Department of Children and Families answered questions.

become part of their new families. For those who are committed to creating forever families for these children, the event has become a highlight they look forward to every year.

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### Adoption Day in Morris/Sussex

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Mudrick also offered remarks. Farber also thanked the DCP&P, the Sussex County family division, the Sussex County Bar Association, the Sussex County Surrogate, Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, Hopatcong Service Unit, Troop 94073 and CASA for their efforts in making the day a success.

A reception for the adoptive families and guests followed.

### Essex Vicinage Holds Senior Law Day

By **Sarah Hatcher**

Administrative Specialist 3  
Essex Vicinage

Essex Vicinage’s Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns hosted Senior Law Day at the East Orange Senior Center on Nov. 18.

About 75 people attended the event, which was held to educate Essex County senior citizens on family, consumer and estate planning laws.

The two-hour seminar also addressed the need for wills, guardianships, advanced directives and making informed healthcare decisions.

Organizations represented included the Essex County Surrogate’s Office, AARP, Essex-Newark Legal Services, Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, Essex County Bar Foundation and Community Health Law Project.

The program was the first in a series developed to address legal representation issues in the community.

For more information on the programs organized by Essex Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, contact Ekan Onyile at 973-693-5727.

## Middlesex TCA Shares in Hawks' High School Football Milestone

By Christine Cave  
Judiciary Secretary 2  
Middlesex Vicinage

The Hawks, John P. Stevens High School football team, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recently honored a Hall of Honor alumnus, Middlesex Trial Court Administrator Gregory Edwards.

Edwards attended J.P. Stevens High School in Edison and played wide receiver, halfback on offense and cornerback on defense.

Edwards was enshrined in the J.P. Stevens High School Hall of Honor in 1998.

In September, Edwards met with the team as a former player and alumnus. "I talked to them about taking advantage of the opportunity of being a J.P.S. football player and transferring those skills to academics and other pursuits during their life," Edwards said.

Stephen Susan, son of Civil Division Presiding Judge Jamie Happas, plays on the team and participated in the session with Edwards.

Happas said the boys were thrilled to meet Edwards.

J.P. Stevens High School, which is in Edison, has been ranked one of the top 100 out of 328 public high schools in New Jersey. The Hawks play in the Greater Middlesex Conference Red Division and compete against high school rivals in Edison, East Brunswick, and Woodbridge.

### Salem Stages Shooting Drill to Test Preparedness

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only by the planning committee.

Courthouse employees remained at their assigned work stations and practiced the lockdown protocol when the drill began. They were eventually evacuated safely.

The courthouse was closed to the public at 12:30 p.m. No cases were heard that afternoon. Some offices in the Fenwick Building reopened at 3:30 p.m. for processing of payments and emergent filings.



Middlesex Vicinage Trial Court Administrator Gregory Edwards stands with members of the John P. Stevens High School football team, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Edwards is a graduate of the Edison school and a member of its Hall of Honor.

### Judiciary Offers Courses for Court Executives

By Mike Mathis  
Judiciary Times Editor

The New Jersey Judiciary has begun offering courses for court managers through the Institute for Court Management (ICM).

*Leadership and Managing Court Financial Resources* are offered through the Judiciary Court Executive Continuing Education (JCECE) Program.

Two specifically designed courses created for the continuing education initiative also are being offered, *Understanding Available Resources as a Leader* and *Federal and State Laws: Employer Responsibility and Rights-What a Court Executive Needs to Know*. Trainings are held regionally to avoid excessive travel costs and to save time.

The ICM leadership course enables participants to learn leadership skills while deciding whether they are ready to become court leaders. Individual leadership styles and their impact in the work environment are taught, with emphasis on the importance of communication and the need for

integrity in leaders. Participants learn about adaptive leadership through exercises that deal with challenges facing the courts, such as the impact and use of technology. They also learn how to develop a dynamic workforce.

In the ICM Managing Court Financial Resources course, participants learn how to plan, prepare, review, present, execute, and monitor a budget and to review steps courts can take during difficult fiscal times.

*Federal and State Laws: Employer Rights and Responsibilities - What a Court Executive Needs to Know*, provides an overview of employment-related laws, employer rights and strategies.

*Understanding Available Resources as a Leader* provides participants with an overview of the structure and functions of the Financial Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the finance divisions in the vicinages.

Staff can apply for the two courses through the Judiciary Learning Management System. ICM is an arm of the National Center for State Courts, a non-profit organization charged with improving judicial administration.

## Family Practice Division Plays Santa's Elves for Kids from Abusive Homes

By Mike Mathis

Judiciary Times Editor

For five years, the family practice division at the Administrative Office of the Courts has played the role of Santa's elf.

Joining with an organization that advocates for domestic violence victims and their families, the family division and Child Support Hearing Officer Program (CSHOP) staff participates in an annual holiday gift drive to collect new toys and clothing to put smiles on the faces of children and parents who don't have much to smile about.

"The work our staff does to support the community by giving back is the real meaning of Christmas, and the hearing officers are the driving force," CSHOP Chief Nancy Manuele said.

The drive is coordinated with the Kay Foundation, a non-profit advocacy organization for domestic violence victims and their families. The foundation works with the New Jersey State Police and the domestic abuse service provider Providence House to provide a "wish list" of suggested items for families in Burlington, Camden and Cape May counties.

The drive is held during the holidays, but donations are accepted year-round. Money can't be accepted but gift cards can.

Among the items on this year's wish list were hair supplies, socks, winter coats, dolls, items from the movie *Frozen*, iTunes and other assorted gift cards, basketballs and sneakers.

Jill Kerr, the CSHOP secretary who coordinates the program, circulates a list of children's names – first names and the first letter of their last name - and their requests to about 50 CSHOP and family practice division staff, who shop for the items. This year gift cards and gifts were delivered on Dec. 12 and were distributed at a holiday gathering for the children and their parents.

"You see how it impacts the families," child support hearing officer Denise Calinda said. "It makes people have a special holiday, and it makes our hearts warm and fuzzy to be able to do it. It's a great cause."

Kelly Wu of the Kay Foundation said the donations go a long way toward helping those victimized by domestic violence enjoy the holidays.

Kerr said she hoped the drive would serve as an example for other divisions in the Judiciary to develop similar partnerships with other charitable organizations. "Other people in the Judiciary can do the same thing," Kerr said.



Among those who participated in the drive were Child Support Hearing Officers Nancy Coyle, David Weir and James Maitland and CSHOP Chief Nancy Manuele.

## Camden Vicinage Installs 32 New Probation Officers in Dec. Ceremony

By Megan Gallardo

Administrative Specialist I

Camden Vicinage

The largest swearing in of probation officers in the history of the Camden Vicinage was held on Dec. 2, when 32 officers took their oaths during a ceremony at the Camden County Hall of Justice in Camden.

Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz administered the Oath of Allegiance, and Trial Court Administrator Kelly A. Law presented the newly appointed officers with a certificate to commemorate their commitment.

Presiding Judges Edward J. McBride Jr. and Charles W. Dortch Jr., Judges Michele M. Fox and Daniel A. Bernardin, Criminal Division Manager Mary Wiesemann, Family Division Manager Dawn Brevard-Waters, and Chief Probation Officer Louis R. Narvaez Jr. also participated, congratulating the new probation officers on their achievement.

Probation officers provide a multitude of vital services for court users, judges and staff, including supervising and rehabilitating offenders, mentoring juveniles, rebuilding families, enforcing court orders, conducting interviews, and preparing reports and assessments to make informed recommendations to judges.



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*We are an independent branch of government constitutionally entrusted with the fair and just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and this State.*