

NORTH JERSEY FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

Annual

Gala

Commemorative
Journal



APRIL 23 2026

THE VENETIAN

North Jersey Friendship House welcomes



Opening in Hackensack May 2026!



Creating career opportunities for autistic
adults since 2011



Annual Program

Gala

6:00 PM **Registration, Cocktail Hour**
Silent Auction & Raffles Open

7:15 PM **Welcome**

Carla Noriega, MBA
Chair, Board of Trustees

**Recognition of Employer of the
Year:**
**Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine
Bar**

Robyn Liebman
Day Program Employment Supervisor

Daniele Polimeni
Operating Partner, Edgewater

Leah Hamilton-Purdy
Chef Partner, Montvale

**Recognition of Our Annual Gala
Honoree:**
Spectrum Designs Foundation

Dinorah D'Auria, PsyD
Chief Executive Officer

Patrick Bardsley
Co-Founder & CEO

Spectrum Designs Video

Kelli Fisher
Marketing & Development Specialist

7:30 PM **Three-Course Dinner Begins**

7:45 PM **Dancing & DJ Music**

Magic Moments Productions, LLC

9:10 PM **Blue & White Prizes Delivered**

9:30 PM **Silent Auction Closes**

9:40 PM **Thank You**

Dinorah D'Auria, PsyD
Chief Executive Officer

**Red, Super Raffle Prizes, Door
& 50/50**

Winners Called

Silent Auction Winners

Pick up gifts in the Rotunda

TO THE
GARCIA FAMILY FUND
OUR EVENT SPONSOR,
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT!



NJFH 2026 Annual *Gala*

We Honor

Spectrum Designs Foundation

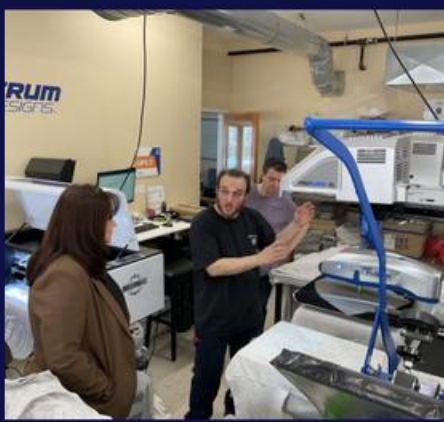
for their extraordinary commitment to dignity,
meaningful employment, and the limitless
potential of neurodiverse individuals.

and

Celebrate Our Employer of the Year

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

for providing our members with real career
opportunities and guiding them with the skills,
confidence, and passion needed to set them
on their journey.



Gala Honoree 2026





F *Fleming's*
PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR

Employer of the Year 2026



Our Programs

About Us

Since 1964, North Jersey Friendship House (NJFH) has been one of the premier vocational rehabilitation programs in northern NJ. Over the years, we have diversified our programs and currently have programs throughout Bergen and Passaic Counties. Our services include comprehensive behavioral health, day habilitation, pre-vocational training, job training, and employment services for adults with varying abilities. These programs include:

Day Habilitation

Our day habilitation program provides a continuum of care appropriate to various skills and placement is based upon individual interests and abilities at our various locations in Bergen and Passaic Counties. Each program includes skills and needs assessment, skill development, functional academics, job sampling and internships, and family involvement and consultations.

Extended Employment

Extended Employment members are provided a variety of services including ongoing evaluation, counseling, work adjustment, and job placement which are provided at a lower level of intensity and without the time constraints of other programs.

Behavioral Health Services - Partial Care

In our behavioral health services, each member is assigned to a counselor and together they develop individualized treatment plan goals. Services include individual counseling and a variety of rehabilitative group sessions, as well as the opportunity for pre-vocational skills development.

Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy (OT) services are now part of our comprehensive support offered at NJFH to help individuals develop the skills they need to thrive at home, at work, and in the community. OT is designed to promote independence, improve daily living skills, and enhance the overall quality of life for our members. Our OT services are tailored to each person's unique needs and goals. Adults enrolled in the New Jersey DDD Supports program with approved OT services in their ISP are eligible for enrollment.





Building Skills for Productive Lives

Pre-Vocational and Job Training

Members learn job readiness skills and good work habits through our supportive, structured pre-vocational training programs in food services, maintenance, and/or packaging and assembly. These services are part of our Partial Care and/or Extended Employment programs.

CHOP - Culinary & Hospitality Opportunities Program

CHOP provides adults with training for employment in the hospitality and culinary industries. The training is an interactive, small group, hands-on approach.

The program focuses on food service skills and the skills needed to provide excellent guest experiences. The goal of this program is to obtain competitive, integrated employment after graduation.

Supported Employment

Our dedicated Job Coaching staff work with adults with varying abilities to obtain employment including job searching, completing applications and preparing for interviews, as well as helping them maintain employment for as long as the need exists.

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a unique, ten-month, employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace and offers a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through internships. The goal is competitive integrated employment upon completion.

Community Inclusion

The Community Inclusion Program allows our members to embrace their socialization and life skills while exploring different aspects of the community.

Business Services



Janitorial Services

We provide contracted cleaning services to a variety of local businesses. These contracts offer members opportunities for employment as well as skill development and advancement.

We provide light maintenance and cleaning services to federal, state and municipal facilities, as well as business complexes, schools, day care centers and more, throughout New Jersey.

Our specialized janitorial cleaning services include general office cleaning, building and grounds, floor refinishing, burnishing and scrubbing, carpet cleaning & extraction and more.

Catering Services

We can provide a variety of choices offering the finest foods at the most reasonable prices. We can cater your next party, birthday, celebration, business meeting or special event. Our staff of driven professionals will assist you with planning your next event.

Our experienced kitchen staff is highly trained in all aspects of menu planning, food handling, preparation, delivery and service, and all staff are ServSafe certified. Let us help you plan your next event.

Assembly and Packaging

We offer fulfillment services for all your production needs (labeling, product assembly and shipping, heat sealing, and mail preparation).

We support the skill development for our members on all aspects of production services, including quality assurance. Our production team supports diverse businesses selling products in national retail chains.

Contact Us:

Marisa Clarino

Business Development Manager

Email: mclarino@njfriendshiphouse.org

Office: (201) 488-2121 ext. 376 / Cell: (201) 814-2833



Business Services



“ I like Friendship House and all the friends I met. I like the trips, the program is fun and we learn a lot of skills. Friendship House helped me get a job after my original job closed and I love being a lead in plays and now it's my passion.
- Lauren ”

“ Friendship House helped me to become myself. It helped me to focus on all of the lessons and Friendship House helps me to feel better about myself.
- Brian ”

“ I like Friendship House because I enjoy going on trips and making friends. The staff supports me
- Hannah ”

“ Friendship House gives me a place I can go during the day and play music and other things with like minded individuals who share similar interest without being judged or bothered by stigma and shallow minded people. At Friendship House people accept you for whoever you are or might be.
- Ed ”

What

Our

Members

Say

About

Friendship

House

Friendship House has helped me grow as a person and has helped me work on my life skills and apply them to everyday life. It also makes me feel secure.

“All our dreams can come true if, we have the courage to pursue them” ~ Walt Disney
- Dermot

Friendship House taught me how to make friends and I love the staff here. I really love being at Friendship House.
- Juliana

I feel great to be at Friendship House because it's a good environment to be at. I have made new friends and it's different. I love the trips we go on and the music I learned to play the drums and there is just good and positive vibes. I am also grateful for all the staff here at Friendship House.
- Sam

“ Friendship House makes me feel happy because I like it here and the classes we take are good and I learn a lot. I love hanging with my friends.
- Justin ”



From our Families



Friendship House has made our son, Nico, feel like he is part of a “Family of Friends.” We have peace of mind knowing that he is in a safe & engaging environment. From the moment he arrives, he is greeted with a smile, making him and us feel that he is welcomed and accepted.

Through the leadership of Latoya & LaShonda, the Wayne Program is thriving with their dedicated Staff. They all work together as a Team to help inspire and motivate each of their members. The structured day is filled with fun learning activities and social outings, which help boost our son’s self-confidence. and a sense of belonging.

Thank you, Mala & Friendship House, for opening the doors to your program with kindness and compassion. Your commitment to our son’s development is invaluable.



From offering an exceptional program that engages our daughter intellectually as well as community experiences with a kind and caring staff that welcomes her every day with respect and understanding, we are very grateful to Friendship House for providing a safe place as well as unwavering support for our daughter to thrive.

Thank you!



Friendship House has been so tremendous at the work. Thank you for helping support my family throughout these years by teaching and growing Eric through love, kindness, and good values.



North Jersey
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE
BUILDING SKILLS FOR PRODUCTIVE LIVES

Disney
THE LION KING



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Our Theater
Program



Join us for Auditions!
June 16th and 18th

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North Jersey Friendship House

Annual

Gala



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Proud to support the North Jersey Friendship House 2026 Annual Gala



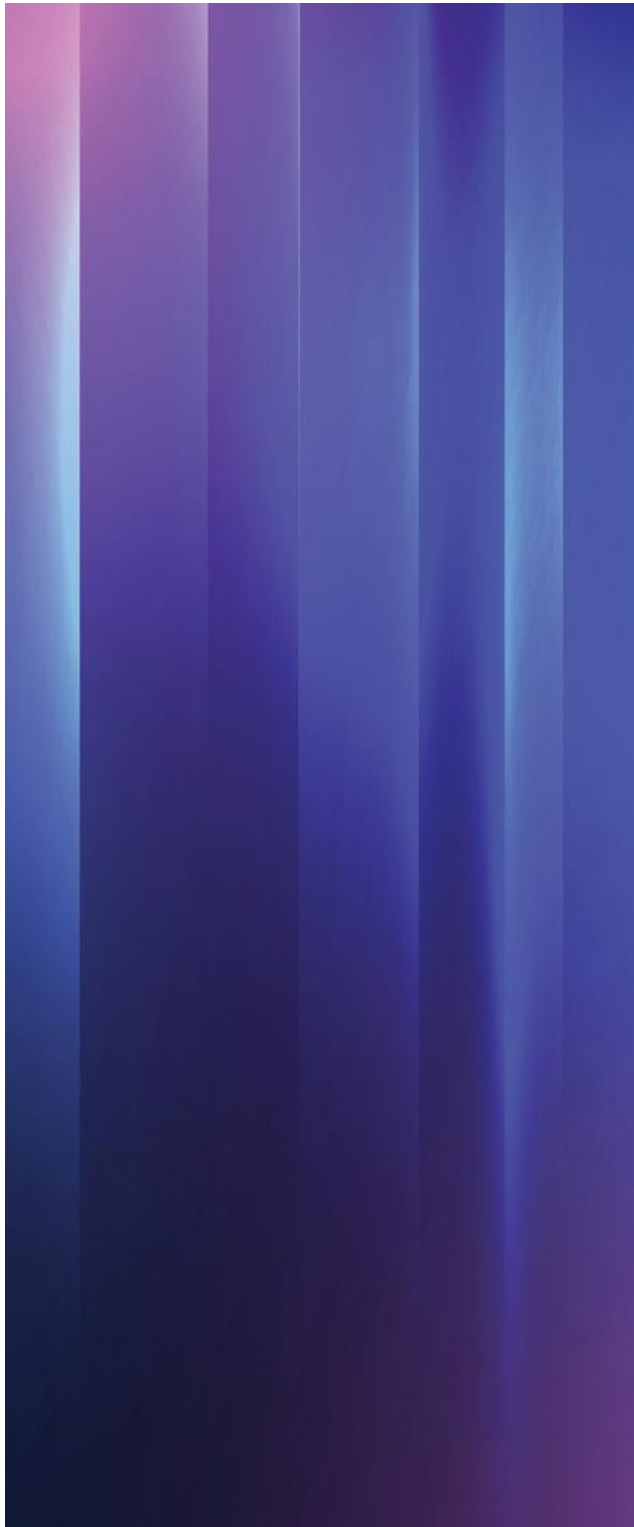
Valley is honored to support **North Jersey Friendship House** and the **2026 Annual Gala** in their mission to empower individuals of all abilities with personalized support to reach their full social, emotional, and vocational goals.

Congratulations to this year's Honoree, **Spectrum Designs Foundation** and to Employer of the Year, **Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar!**

valley.com

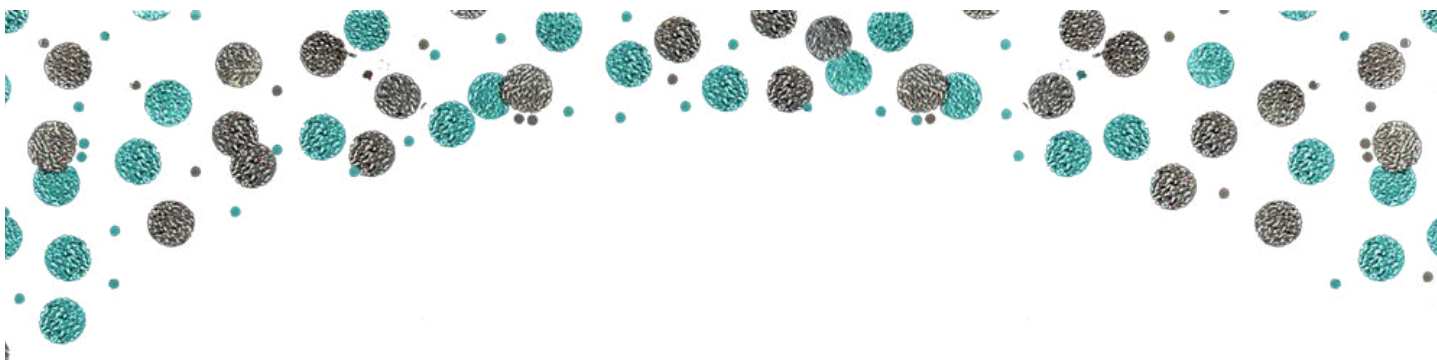
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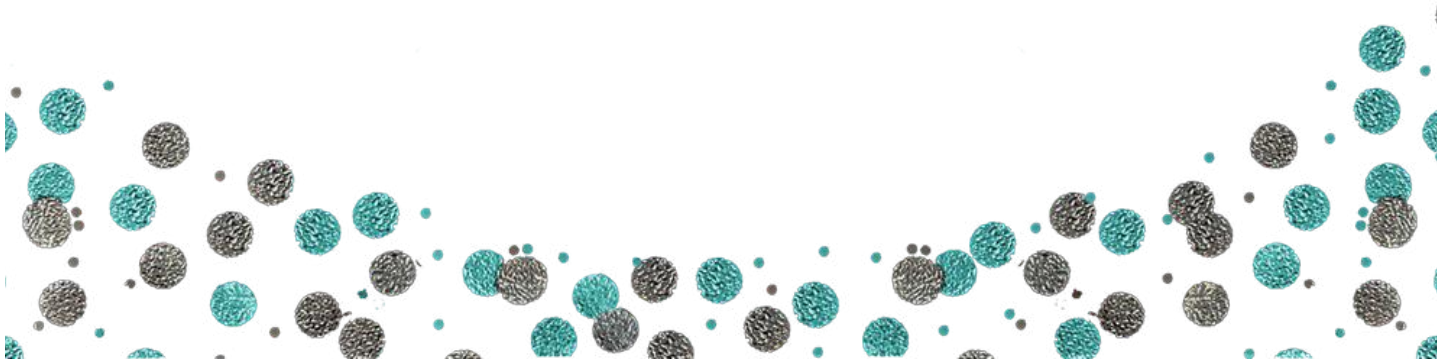
Morgan Stanley is proud to support the
**North Jersey
Friendship House**

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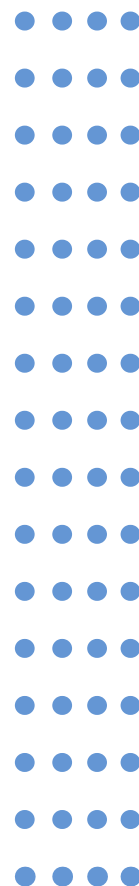
THE AVITAL FAMILY

extends sincere thanks to
the wonderfully caring staff, at our
daughter's program,
for all you do
each and every day!





CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GALA HONOREES!



Risk Strategies is a proud supporter of North Jersey Friendship House.

We are a company that cares about our clients and our communities. Our nonprofit specialists help organizations throughout New Jersey, and across the country, manage risk so they can dedicate their time and energy to improving people's lives.



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ARE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE.

NJM Insurance Group
is proud to support the
North Jersey Friendship House
Annual Gala

FOR A QUOTE, VISIT NJM.COM



For over 60 years, North Jersey Friendship House has answered the call for the individuals we support, for their families, and for the steadfast belief that every person deserves a meaningful life. This past year, we deepened our roots in new communities and built partnerships that are already creating opportunities we once only dreamed of.

None of it happens without You.

To our members and families, you are our purpose. To our staff, you are our heart. To our sponsors, donors, and partners, thank you for believing in what we do together.

The best is still ahead.

With gratitude and joy,

Dinorah D'Auria, PsyD
Chief Executive Officer



The Board of Trustees and CEO
of North Jersey Friendship House proudly celebrate
another year of inspiring accomplishments and
heartfelt support for our members.

Our successes are made possible by the dedication of
our members and their families, the kindness of our
supporters, and the commitment of our devoted staff.

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Chief Executive Officer

Dinorah D'Auria, PsyD

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The law firm's philosophy has always been to provide prompt, responsive, and cost effective legal services curated to meet each client's specific needs, which is why it has thrived for over 100 years.

If you have legal issues you would like to discuss,
please contact us at

(201) 488-7211

Peapack Private proudly supports North Jersey FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

*At Peapack Private, we are committed
to improving the quality of life of
individuals in our communities.*



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*Thank you for all of your hard work
and dedication to the community.*



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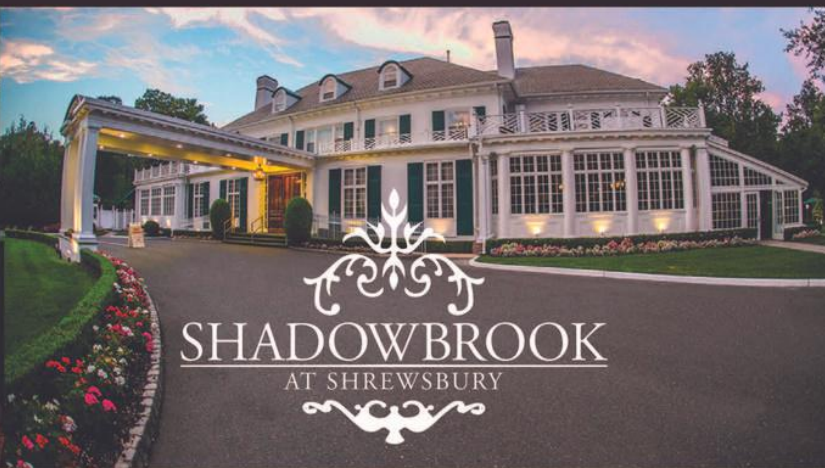
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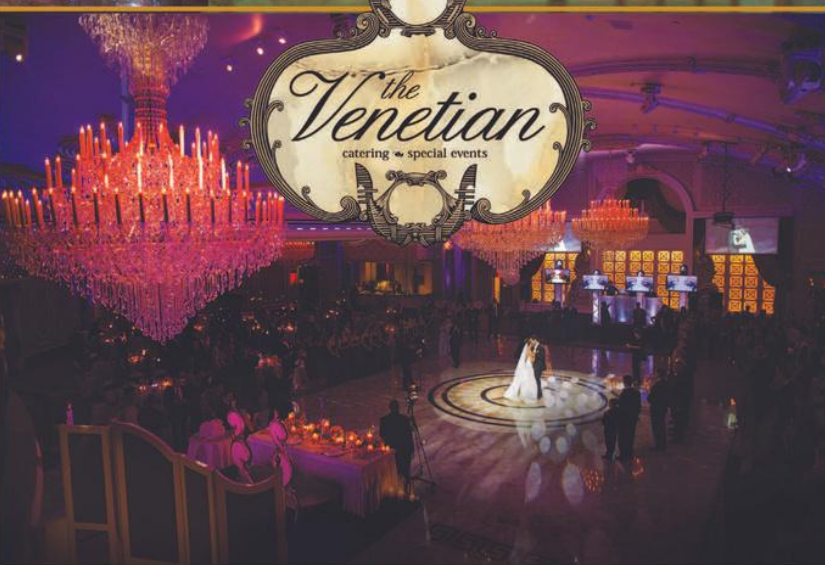
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Caring. Consideration. Commitment.
**That's what we like about
North Jersey Friendship House.**

We appreciate and support the work of North Jersey Friendship House as it delivers needed services, hope and caring to our friends and neighbors throughout the community. Thank you.

**Mutual of America Financial Group is
proud to be a sponsor of the Annual Gala
and to salute this evening's honorees.**

Here is to Another Year
Celebrating
North Jersey
Friendship House's
Programs!

The Ivie Family

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Annual **GALA**

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ACCSES



Service. Leadership. Support.

ACCSES NJ, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing leadership and support to members who advocate for and serve persons with disabilities through community based programs located throughout New Jersey.



Congratulations to the Inspiring Honorees

We are proud to celebrate
our partnership with
North Jersey Friendship House,
whose shared commitment to dignity,
inclusion, and opportunity continues
to create positive change
for those you serve.

Deb Visconi
President and CEO
and the Executive Team



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NewBridgeHealth.org



Thank you

North Jersey Friendship House

for the Essential Work You Do!

It's an Honor to Serve as

Vice-Chair of the Board.

Donnalee Corrieri



The Chinese proverb states:

If you give a man a fish, you have

fed him for a day,

but if you teach him to fish, you have

fed him for a lifetime.

Congratulations **Friendship House**

For 62 Years of Teaching Our Members

How to Fish.

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Dr. Jim is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctorate who has worked in the field of Special Education and Autism for 40 plus years. He is the Immediate Past Executive Chairman of the Autism Society of America's National Board of Directors and is a past two time appointed Community Member of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee.

Private Consultations to Organizations, Schools, & Families:

Behavior Management

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James Ball, Ed.D., BCBA-D, LBA
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at a time...

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PCR and Jersey Mike's
Congratulates
**North Jersey
Friendship House**
on Another
Productive year!



Kyle Demarest

Dad and I are so proud of you and how
much you can accomplish!

We love you beyond the moon and back!

May your bright smile and the joy you
continue to give never go away.

This is who you are, and we
will love you forever!

Love,
Mom and Dad

**We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely
thank all those who donated to our
2026 Annual Gala!**

5 Wits	Kelly Fox
Abbatiello Family	F.W. Webb
Chris Allerman and Robyn Liebman	Gal Family
Joseph Angelosante	Gambino Family
Banning Family	Goldberg's Original Bagels
Antonina Benincasa	Joelle Gonnella
Bergen County Parks and Recreation	Graye Family
Berman Family	Gruber Family
Bernheim Family	Happy Tales
Book and Needle Woman's Club of Oradell	Zenobia Harris
Borchert Family	HNH Fitness
Victoria Borelli	Holiday Bowl
Boslak Family	Humdingers
Branda Family	Ivie Family
Robyn Brentano	Tav Jinivizian
Cyndi Briones	Johnsrud Family
Veronica Brown	Joy Family
Cabrera Family	Vicky Jung
Donna Carroll Smith	Marilyn Kelsey
Carson's Cookie Dough	Kendra Scott
Chen Family	Patricia Kieck
Contreras Family	King Family
Cork and Keg	Isabel Lagana
Cornetto Family	Lavitol Family
Donnalee Corrieri	Laxer Family
Cranberry Junction	Lazy Lanigans
Curtis Family	Legacy Barbershop
Dinorah D'Auria	Arnold Litt
Giovanna DeCarlo and Michele Sesena	Gabriel Lois
DeSavino Family	Colleen Long
Edward Grande	Long Family
Eisenstein Family	Madison Reed
Endow Family	Malakas Family
English Family	Marriott Bonvoy
F & G Mechanical	Martino Family
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Felber Family	Meadowlands Racing and Entertainment
Fatima Fernandez and Samuel Tejada	Medieval Times
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar - Edgewater	Medina Family
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar - Montvale	Mergus Family
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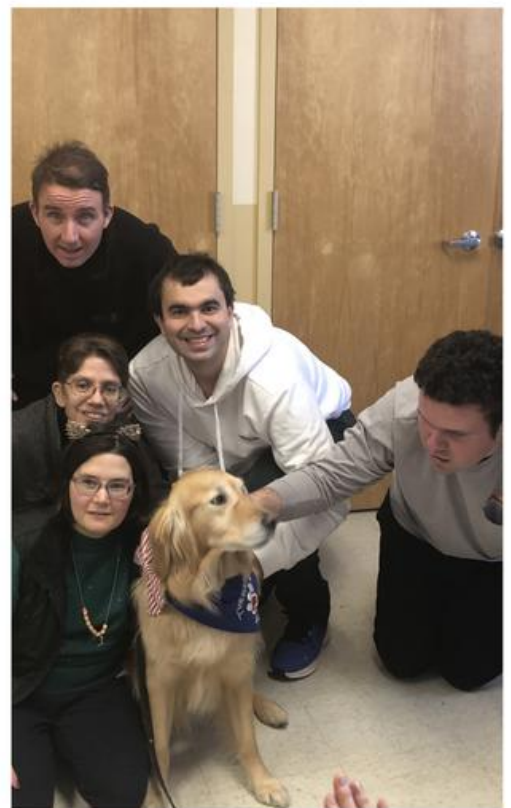
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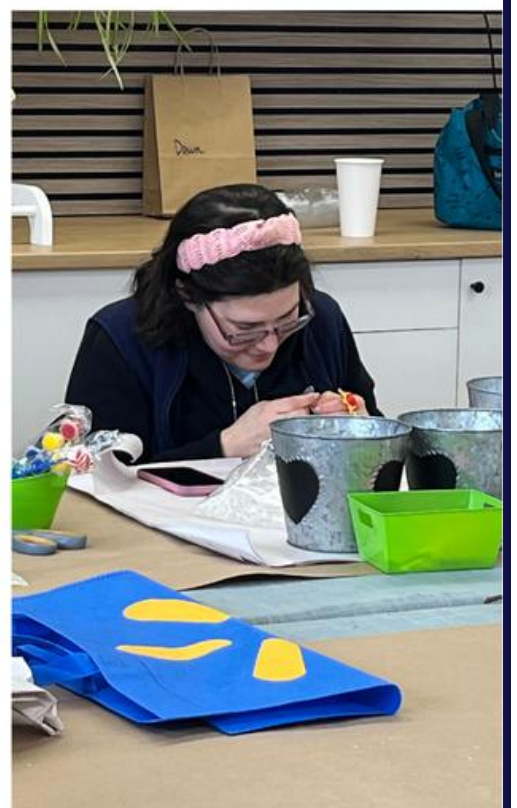
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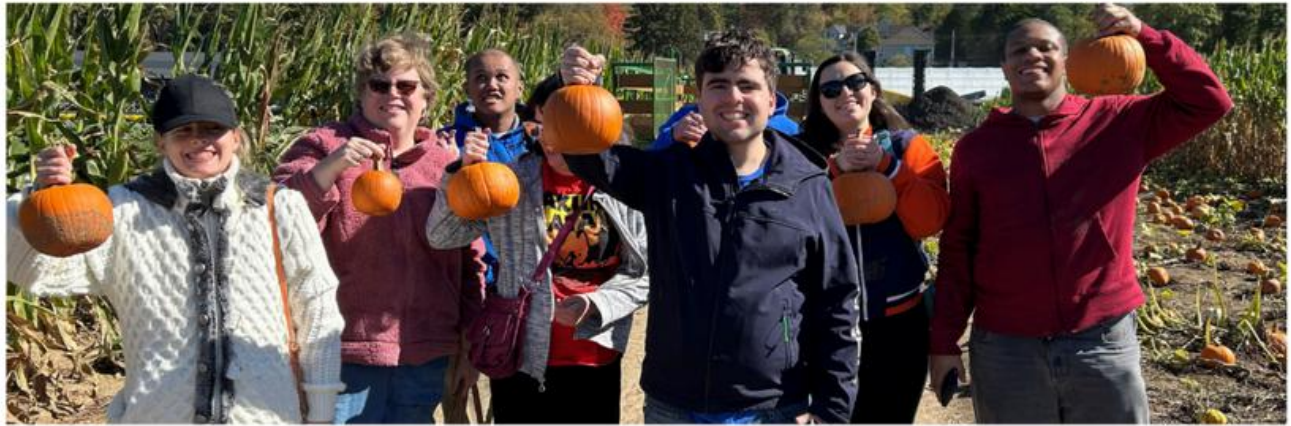
**We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to those individuals whose
donations and/or messages were received after the completion of this journal.**











Thank
you



North Jersey
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE
BUILDING SKILLS FOR PRODUCTIVE LIVES

We extend our deepest gratitude to The Venetian Catering & Special Events for their impeccable service, Lori Peterson for capturing every special moment with artistry, and Magic Moments Productions, LLC for their outstanding audio/visual production, DJ services, and photobooth.

A special acknowledgment goes to our dedicated staff who organized  fundraisers ahead of our Annual Gala Celebration, and to the generous donors whose contributions made a lasting difference.

Finally, to our sponsors, advertisers, gift, raffle, and auction donors, members, staff, trustees, events committee, volunteers, and guests: you are the reason this night was such a remarkable success. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! 

We Thank Our Caring Staff

