

HOMEFRONT Happenings

FALL 2026
OUR 35TH YEAR!

In the Community, For the Community *Unveiling The 222 Community Market and Resource Hub*



September 24th was an exciting day for HomeFront and residents in Trenton's West Ward, with the official ribbon-cutting for The 222 Community Market and Resource Hub, located on North Hermitage Avenue. Through a partnership between Mercer Street Friends and HomeFront, with support from Trenton Health Team, The 222 brings together food access, essential goods, and support services in one place within the community it serves.

Along with the community members, organizations, and local leaders in attendance, HomeFront and Mercer Street Friends welcomed representatives from Mercer County, including members of County Executive Dan Benson's new and innovative Office of Food Security, and the NJ Economic Development Authority FEED NJ program, whose investment helped transform the infrastructure at The 222 into an accessible and welcoming space for families.



The new hub offers a more direct and welcoming path to support by building on Mercer Street Friends' long-standing presence in the West Ward and HomeFront's experience in addressing food insecurity and helping families stabilize.

HomeFront manages The 222's Community Market, which provides access to fresh and shelf-stable food where families can choose what they like and need. As the program evolves, we'll distribute other basic necessities through the Community Market. HomeFront will also provide on-site referrals and connections to homelessness prevention, workforce development, family support, and other resources that can help families build stability.

We're grateful for this collaboration with our partners and the opportunity to deepen our relationship with the West Ward community.

From Sarah's Desk:

The word of the season is “change”. As the leaves begin to turn and temperatures start to drop, each fall day brings something new. And change is certainly the language of HomeFront. With your help, lives are changed every day. From a seemingly simple interaction where a family finally felt heard, to a major life transition that opens up new possibilities for them — big or small, these moments can shape what comes next for a family.

Looking back, HomeFront has changed and grown over these past 35 years, thanks to supporters like you. But we're also looking ahead — to the change that's coming, the ways we must adapt again to meet families where they are and meet new challenges.

One thing hasn't changed: how much our community cares. I remind myself of the Margaret Mead quote that is HomeFront's credo: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” I'm grateful for the change and hope people like you make possible every day.

Sarah Steward

Sarah Steward
HomeFront CEO



Three Leading Forces at A Night of Hope
L to R: Sarah Steward, HomeFront CEO; Connie Mercer, HomeFront Founder & CEO Emeritus; and Celia Bernstein, former HomeFront leader and prior Executive Director of Homes by TLC.

“We’re paying it forward.”

After providing for their family in their will, Fran and Larry Sucharow chose to include HomeFront as well. As members of HomeFront's Kitchen Table legacy giving society, they're making sure care and resources will be there for families long into the future. We're deeply grateful for the incredible care of the Sucharow family.

“Fran and I both came from difficult circumstances and became successful. Part of this is sharing.” says Larry. “It’s something we absolutely need to do,” agrees Fran. “Help as many people as possible.”

Learn more in this issue about HomeFront's Kitchen Table and other Smart Ways to Give that put what matters most to you into action.



Our Wish List

- Period supplies
- Humidifiers
- Winter coats and accessories for babies through adults, especially larger adult sizes
- Single-serve snacks, such as: squeezable applesauce, cheese or peanut butter crackers, Cheez-Its, Goldfish, fruit snacks, cookies
- Shower curtains, liners, and hooks
- Cleaning spray, dish soap, sponges, Swiffers, and brooms
- Bath and kitchen towels
- Cookware, dinnerware, and utensil sets

See more of our most needed items by scanning the QR code:



To donate items or get more information, contact us at (609) 989-9417 x107, or getinvolved@HomeFrontNJ.org



On the Cover

Our newsletters feature work by artists in our therapeutic art program, ArtSpace.

Note that we change some clients' names to protect their privacy.

KidZone!

Our Children's and Family Supports programs use a two-generation approach to help children and their families thrive and realize life's possibilities.

Congrats to long-time Joy, Hopes, and Dreams member, Amanda, on her recent graduation! Amanda says that HomeFront brought her and her family opportunities "beyond our recognition," helping her mother find a job, home, and stability so she and her siblings could focus on school. She recalled all the activities she did with JHD: "Going to the pool, all the trips, the Trenton Circus Squad, and my best memory—the Arts Council of Princeton" where she met "Ms. Barbara, my role model in the arts." Amanda is taking classes at Mercer County Community College this fall.



Camp Day Snapshot: Campers enjoy a nature walk at Kunkel Park in Pennington — and a STEM activity where campers built a pompom-launching catapult to see which would go the farthest (the competition got serious!).



What Makes Wonderful Wednesdays at Camp Mercer so Wonderful?

Every Wednesday afternoon, a different group of caring HomeFront supporters orchestrate an afternoon of play, fun, and laughter at camp—outdoor activities, games, crafts, an ice cream truck, or sometimes even a bowling trip. No matter what a child or family is going through, they know they'll be welcomed by people who care.

Thank you to this year's Wonderful Wednesday hosts: Ewing Police, Fire, and EMS; DiMedio Wealth Partners of Rockefeller Global Management; BlackRock; NJM; FirstBank; Church & Dwight; Capital Health; and ZS Associates.



UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most up-to-date details, visit our website, www.HomeFrontNJ.org

Sunday, October 25

Halloween Run, Walk, and Family Fun

Starting October 5

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Starting October 5

Holiday Wishes Drive

Starting November 12

Treasure Trove Holiday Boutique

Open house 5-8 p.m., 11/12

Unique holiday finds to decorate or to gift.

November 15-21

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

Follow along on social media

November 24 – December 1

GivingTuesday Week

Carry the spirit of Thanksgiving into GivingTuesday



Our Community Cares



Back-to-School, Powered by Our Community

The school year starts with a long list of needs, and our caring community made sure Mercer County kids and their families were well-equipped and prepared. Individuals, families, businesses, and community groups donated backpacks, supplies, and clothing. Volunteers helped organize thousands of items. Thanks to this incredible effort, hundreds of children headed back to school with the supplies they needed to start the year ready to learn.

Exercise Equipment Grant: Restoring Strength & Mobility

Thanks to Dr. Megha Pandya and support from a Penn Medicine CAREs Grant, women at HomeFront's Family Campus have access to specialized care. The grant supports Restoring Strength & Mobility: Musculoskeletal Care for Women at HomeFront, part of a broader partnership that brings Penn Medicine expertise directly to the families we serve. We're grateful to Dr. Pandya for choosing to share her time and expertise with HomeFront, and to Penn Medicine for supporting employees who put their skills to work in their communities.



SewingSpace: Made with Care

At HomeFront's SewingSpace, creativity and compassion come together in every stitch. Dedicated SewingSpace volunteers share their time and talents to create beautiful items for HomeFront families, from bags and blankets to one-of-a-kind pieces.

SewingSpace embodies the spirit of community members showing up, sharing their skills, and finding a meaningful way to support their neighbors.

We are grateful to the SewingSpace volunteers for making HomeFront a welcoming and caring place.



Here @ HomeFront



Four new duplexes—8 homes—that we began building in Ewing last April with our sister organization, Homes by TLC, will be completed by the time you get this newsletter or shortly thereafter. At the same time, we'll have also broken ground on another 11 new homes in Ewing. Families will pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent and have support and services from HomeFront as they build greater stability and security.

HomeFront HomeGrown

Where Fresh Food Takes Root

One family's garden is flourishing through HomeGrown, the new program introduced in our summer issue.



*"Gardening brings me peace.
With my hands in the earth and
surrounded by nature, I feel calm,
refreshed..."*



FAMILY CAMPUS: Our Community Garden

The community garden at our Family Campus has been a multi-team effort to set up and tend to. We're especially proud of our Atkinson preschoolers who have been a big part of caring for the produce. You'll see that some of the veggies from the garden made it into our Teaching Kitchen for a cooking class.



1880 Princeton Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

(609) 989-9417 www.HomeFrontNJ.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 1367

INSIDE —

*A new season and
so much to share
with you!*



Follow us on social media:



Has any of your contact information changed? Want to sign up for HomeFront emails?
Send your name and updated contact info to GetInvolved@homefrontnj.org

*“HomeFront brought
me and my family
opportunities beyond
our recognition...”*

*Read more from a Joy, Hopes,
and Dreams teen inside!*

