



update

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NEWARK EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

NESF Hosts 2001 Annual Meeting In The Shadows of Tragedy

In the shadow of the September 11th tragedy, community members, friends of NESF, board members and staff gathered on September 21st for our 2001 annual meeting. Though the mood was somber in the wake of the terrorist attacks, the events produced a sobering realization, poignant meaning and an urgency to our continued existence. Emergency services had forever taken on a new meaning.



Keynote Speaker, Dale Caldwell and newly inducted board member Margie Perez

presented NESF's annual report noting that there are few agencies that do what NESF does, that offer the breadth of services that our agency offers. Last year alone, the agency assisted over 53,000 clients during the fiscal year ending April 2001.

Not content to sit back and rest upon our achievements, Bryant revealed that the agency is currently planning for the third phase of renovations to its Victoria Human Services Plaza. Third phase renovations are to include the establishment of a food and clothing pantry in the basement to better serve client needs. It is estimated that the third phase renovations will cost in the neighborhood of \$90,000.

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Daunting Challenges Ahead

NESF Board Vice President, Dena Lowenbach outlined to all gathered that the challenge presently before NESF is how to provide emergency services to an ever burgeoning number of clients at a time when many of our funding sources are drying up due to the poor economy and due to the nation's current war-time status.

NESF Board President, Joyce W. Harley, Esq. affirmed NESF's commitment to continue serving those in need here in Essex County in the face of such challenges. Harley exhorted the audience not to lose faith in our mission, "These are challenging times. We've faced hard times before. We know all about sacrificing. Sacrifices will have to be made. Some screws may have to be tightened. But, we are in this for the long haul.... I believe in what NESF stands for and that what we are doing is right. And I must believe that right will prevail. Too many people are depending on us. We cannot fail."

Program Expansions and Renovations

SanDonna Bryant-Jones, Chairperson of NESF's Long-Term Planning Committee,

We've seen increased requests for all of our services—food and clothing requests, rental and utility assistance, working family as well as senior citizen assistance. The numbers of displaced persons visiting our drop-in center are up as well as the number of hot line calls. So, there is no mistaking the need for an organization like NESF.



Annette O'Flaherty Award is presented to Ms. Annette Hubbard by Dan O'Flaherty and Jeanette Page-Hawkins.

NESF On The Frontlines of Support for Those Impacted by September 11

The events of September 11th have affected us all in some way. No sector of the economy has gone unaffected. Economically, thousands of New Jerseyans are suffering. We, here at NESF, are on the front lines in terms of providing support to those directly and indirectly affected by the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Since September 11th, we have begun to see a significant rise in the number of clients coming to NESF for assistance. Thousands of persons who worked in the vicinity of the trade center are now without employment. The following are a few examples of persons



who have sought assistance from NESF as a result of the World Trade Center disaster. One of the most unfortunate family situations that we've seen involves a New Jersey mother of four who lost her husband in the trade center disaster. She is now struggling to make ends meet following the loss of the family breadwinner. Some of the other persons

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