

# Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council

JANUARY 2019

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## WORKING TO AFFIRM THE DIGNITY AND EQUALITY OF ALL “PARTNERSHIPS LEADING THE WAY TO UNITY”

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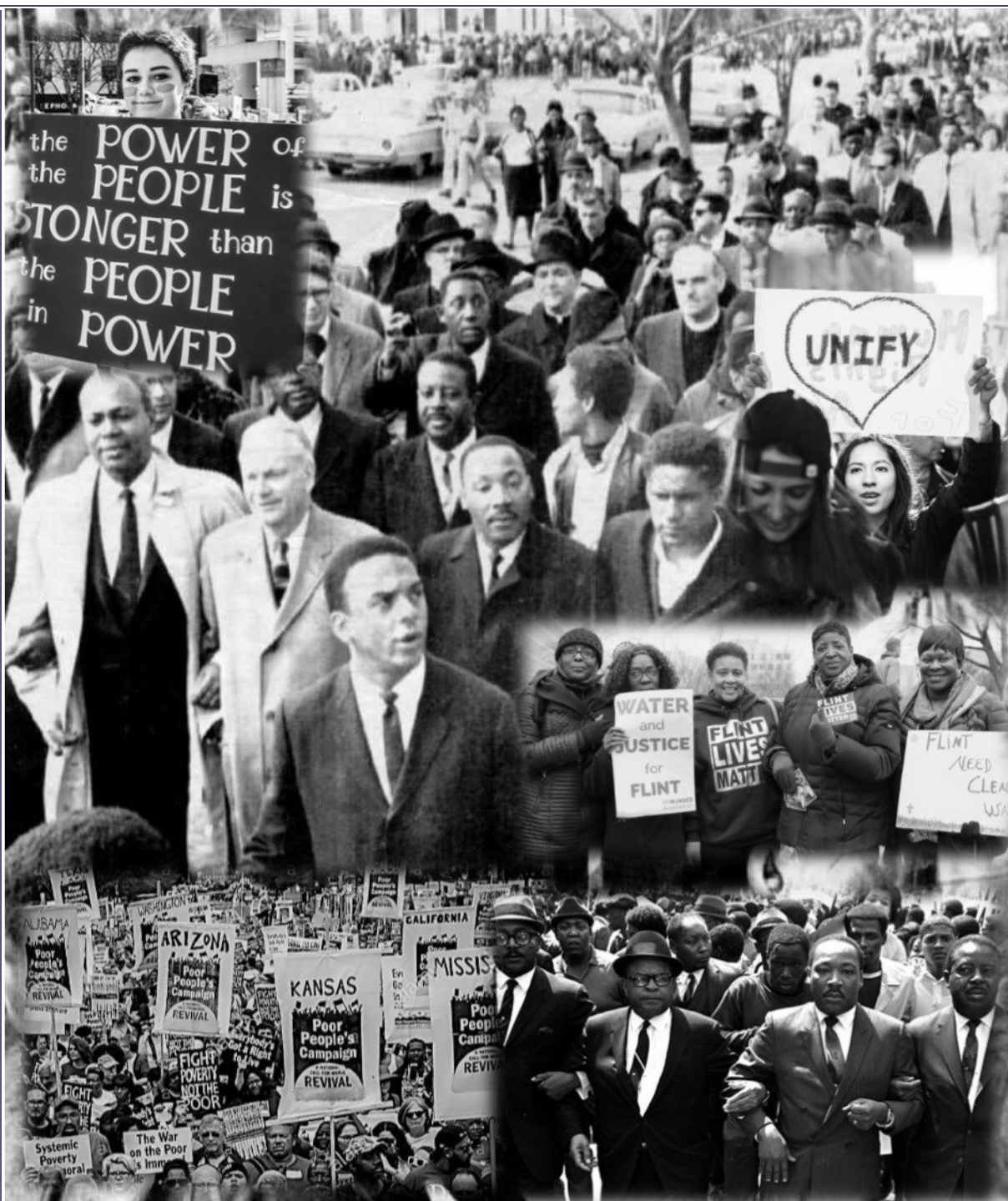
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## UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL Steering Committee Members

**Deacon Tim Williams-Chair**  
First Baptist Church  
Kenilworth

**Sidney Blanchard**  
Executive Director of CAU

**Rabbi Joel N. Abraham**  
Temple Shalom  
Scotch Plains

**Ayaz Aslam**  
Muslim Community Center of UC  
Elizabeth

**Pastor H. Bryant**  
Honorably Retired  
Presbyterian Church USA

**Denise Fernandes**  
Latino Outreach

**Erich Han William Kussman, Jr**  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Springfield

**Pastor Mertz**  
First United Methodist Church  
Westfield

**Michelle Mobley**  
Director of Youth Service  
Residential

**Pastor Carmine Pernini**  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Rahway

**Father Michael Saporito**  
The Parish Community of St. Helen  
Westfield

**Roderick Spearman**  
CAU Consultant

**Reverend Ronald C. Thomas**  
Fountain Baptist Church  
Summit

**Elder Arthur "Skip" Winter**  
Cranford Presbyterian Church  
Cranford

## About the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council

### Our Mission

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council works to facilitate regular interfaith meetings in order to make way for the building of bonds within the interfaith community.

We respect and encourage the inclusion and welcoming of others regardless of faith, race or disability. We strive to be proactive on social issues.

### Our Goals

- To grow the network of faith-based organizations in Union County.
- To encourage representatives from all faiths to join the Interfaith Coordinated Council including those of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Islamic, and other faiths.
- To be engaged in:
  1. **Community Building** within faith-based organizations and the general Union County population.
  2. The advancement of **Social Justice**.
  3. The intentional **inclusion** of others regardless of gender, faith, race.
- To be active in activities that are inclusive and community building.

### Our Objectives

- Sponsor regular engagement opportunities that facilitate the building of bonds within the Union County interfaith community and their congregations.
- Strengthen the Union County religious congregations through involvement, action and education in self-help.
- Build working relationships between Union County religious organizations and Community Access Unlimited that create opportunities for youth and people with disabilities and their support staff.

### Potential Advantages to Joining the Interfaith Community

- Develop interfaith solidarity.
- Avail yourself of increased visibility within the interfaith community and build opportunities to share educational and community events with the group.
- Build religious membership.
- Gain exposure for you and fellow congregation members to educational opportunities regarding entitlements, housing, and other services, including but not limited to: programs for seniors, youth, people with physical and developmental disabilities, etc..
- Create full and part time employment opportunities for congregation members with CAU.

# guest message

**By: Honorably Retired Reverend Howard Bryant  
Presbyterian Church, USA**

The forces that govern Martin Luther King Jr.

Few, if any, men have made a more universal impact upon the consciousness of humanity. Then did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A French philosopher said, “no man is strong unless he bears within them character. Anti-thesis strongly marked.” Martin Luther King Jr. was such a man. Born into a family that believed deeply in an eventual deliverance from a worldly social order and nurtured by the reality of daily affronts to his human dignity. Martin Luther King can truly be characterized as an extraordinarily strong man who achieved this balance of opposites.



As did other great men with similar ideas, Dr King recognized this need for blending opposites. He often sermonized the fact that it was difficult to imagine a single person having simultaneously, the characteristics of the serpent and the Dove. He was totally committed to the belief that we must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of the Dove, a tough-mind and tender heart. This philosophy of Martin Luther King, then, leads to the difficult problem of trying to separate the dual personality that was his.

What was Martin Luther King? Let us consider first, his possession of a tough mind. Throughout the struggle for human dignity, he was characterized by incisive thinking, realistic appraisal, and decisive judgment. His mind was sharp enough to break through the crust of legends and myths and sift the true from the false. He had a strong austere quality that made him firm in his purpose and solid in his commitment. Dr King believed that soft mindedness was the basic cause of race prejudice. Being a tough-minded individual, he always examined the facts before he reached conclusions; in short, he post judged. He asserted that a soft minded individual drew conclusions before he examine the first fact; thereby, he prejudged. He believed that there are those who are sufficiently soft minded enough to believe in racial superiority, in spite of the research revealing the falsity of such a notion.

Dr King appealed to the world's people to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths and ignorance. He felt that the circumstances of the world today do not permit us the luxury of soft mindedness.

Let us examine Dr King's capacity to love, his tenderheartedness. He was a man who could feel deep affection for others, sharing in their joys and sorrows. His rare capacity to share this love knew no boundaries, racial or otherwise. His output of love linked him with the mainland of humanity.

Martin Luther King possessed the capacity for genuine compassion. He felt the hurt and pains of his fellow brothers/sisters; he saw people as people rather than impersonal images, he gave of his spirit to mankind.

Dr King's dual personality was best demonstrated in his quest for freedom through nonviolent resistance. Through nonviolence, he was able to combine these opposites to oppose the unjust system and at the same time love those who perpetuated that system.



## guest message continued...

Martin Luther King was a militant man. To be militant is to be ready and willing to fight for what you believe, to fight continuously and belligerently for the cause one feels to be just. He chose the weapon of nonviolence to demonstrate his militancy. He believed that violence produced hatred, and only brought about temporary victories.

“There is no easy way,” said Martin Luther King, “to create a world where men and women can live together, where each one has his own job and house, and where all children receive as much education as their mind can absorb. But if such a world is created in our lifetime, it will be done in the United States by Negroes and white people of good will. It will be accomplished by persons who have the courage to put an end to suffering by willingly suffering themselves rather than inflicting suffering upon others. It will be done by rejecting the racism, materialism and violence that has characterized Western civilization, and, especially. It will be accomplished by working toward a world of brotherhood, cooperation and peace.”

When we allow freedom to ring O when we let it ring from every city and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual. “Free at last, free at last, great God almighty, we are free at last.”







## Embodying MLK: A Community Organizing Event

Join UCICC & Faith in New Jersey for a  
Community Organizing Workshop!

Open to Faith Leaders, Organizers, Advocates, & People of Good Conscience that  
aim to be the change in 2019.

**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019

**Time:** 6pm-9pm

**Where:** Mount Teman AME Church  
160 Madison Ave.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

**Register:** <https://embodying-mlk-a-community-organizing-event.eventbrite.com>

*“True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an  
edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.” - MLK*

*Sponsored by:*





# Faith in Action



## PICTURED

- Homeless Persons' Vigil held on December 20, 2018 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Plainfield



# Faith in Action



## PICTURED

- Faith in NJ presents Celebrating Love in Action “Honoring Leaders Making a Difference in New Jersey.”
- Honoring Rev. Robin Tanner, Brother Saffet Catovic, Kason Little, Zorida Ossa, Rabbi Larry Sernovitz, 32BJ SEIU, Rev. Dr. Ronald Owens, & Afia Yunus, Esq



# Independent Prosecutor Bill Awaits Governor Murphy's Signature

**Submitted by: Rev. Carmine Pernini**  
**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rahway NJ**

Governor Murphy needs to sign the Independent Prosecutor bill which was passed in the Senate([S1036](#)) and the Assembly([A3115](#)). The Governor needs to sign it because in 1966 when James Baldwin said, "I have witnessed and endured the brutality of the police....but, of course, I cannot prove it. I cannot prove it because the Police Department investigates itself, quite as though it were answerable only to itself....([James Baldwin, "Occupied Territory," The Nation, 1966.](#))" Baldwin's context and ours have remained essentially the same where police are "answerable only to itself." Without the

Governor's signature on the Independent Prosecutor bill, Baldwin's clarion call from 1966 was written as much to Harlem, NYC in 1966 as it is to Governor Murphy in New Jersey in 2018.

Governor Murphy needs to sign the Independent Prosecutor bill because he, while campaigning for governor, in the presence of several interfaith clergy([NJ Clergy Coalition for Justice & Faith in NJ](#)) promised – *in a church* – that he wants the process of investigating police related shootings to be "[as independent as possible.](#)" As the process of investigating police related shootings stands today, the county prosecutors, whose effectiveness largely depends on their relationship with local PD, creates a conflict of interest, or at least the appearance of one. The Independent Prosecutor Bill on the Governor's desk eliminates that conflict, and to use Governor Murphy's words, makes the process, "as independent as possible."

Governor Murphy already knows that there needs to be a more independent process when it comes to police investigating police because he [tweeted](#) about it. Gov. Murphy called for an "independent prosecutor" for his then gubernatorial opponent, Kim Guadagno, when allegations that Mrs. Guadagno, when a County Prosecutor, inappropriately gave a title to an officer so that he could continue to receive his pension. He knew about the importance of an Independent Prosecutor then, surely he knows about the importance of one now!



We need an Independent Prosecutor because "[Black people in N.J. say they're more likely to be punched, kicked by cops. Now Data backs that up.](#)" Today, the cries of racial bias have been confirmed by NJ.com's "[The Force Report](#)" where, "Statewide, a black person was more than three times more likely to face police force than someone who is white."

An Independent Prosecutor is essential to restoring trust between the community and police because the difference in the public's trust of police officers breaks down along color lines where 75% of Whites and 33% of Blacks say police "use the right amount of force for each situation." 75% of Whites and 35% Blacks say police, "treat racial and ethnic groups equally." Lastly, 70% of Whites and 31% of Blacks say officers are held, "...accountable when misconduct occurs([The Racial Confidence Gap in Police Performance](#))."

This should matter to the [94% of black New Jersians](#) who put Murphy in office.

# Independent Prosecutor Bill Awaits Governor Murphy's Signature *Continued...*



The public trust of the police has been broken because of the conflict of interest between county prosecutors and police which comes with a price tag, “\$42 million has been spent this decade to cover-up deaths [at least 19], physical abuses, and sexual misconduct at the hands of bad cops (*Protecting the Shield*).” 68 cops facing discipline were given over \$700,000 to quietly resign. The Independent Prosecutor Bill would move the prosecution of the most delicate of cases, where officers kill civilians, out of the hands of county prosecutors and bring the details of these incidents to light as opposed to keep them behind the high walls of cash settlements and non-disclosure agreements.

Were Governor Murphy not to sign the Independent Prosecutor Bill, he would effectively be the recipient of James Baldwin's scathing 1966 critique of police brutality, he will have broken his commitment that he made to interfaith clergy during his campaign, displayed a double standard by calling for an Independent Prosecutor when it was expedient to do so against a political opponent during the election, disappointed the 94% of black New Jerseyans who voted for him, and turned a blind eye to the increasingly large sets of data which demonstrate bias in policing across the state. Please call Governor Phil Murphy's office at 609-292-6000 and tell him to SIGN THE INDEPENDENT PROSECUTOR BILL A3115/S1036 NOW #NoAmendments #NoChanges #NoConditions

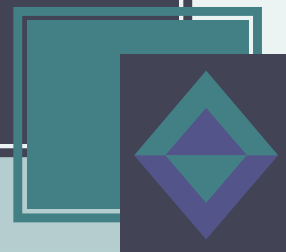


*Faith in NJ and UCICC members successfully advocating for the Independent Prosecutor Bill to pass the Senate and Assembly for Governor Murphy to sign.*

**Please call Governor Phil Murphy's office at 609-292-6000 and tell him to SIGN THE INDEPENDENT PROSECUTOR BILL A3115/S1036 NOW!**

# Roots and Wings

**By: Meagan Jensen, Operations Manager**  
**Roots and Wings**

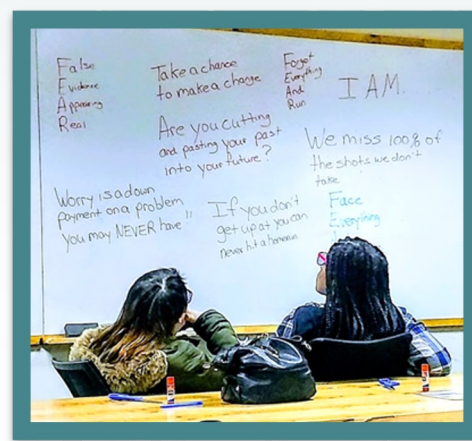


Imagine turning 18 and having nowhere to go, no one to turn to, and then being expected to succeed on your own without the support of close family relationships, adequate education, financial resources, or safe housing. This is a reality for many young adults who age out of the foster care system in New Jersey. Founded in 1999 by Irene deGrandpre, a CASA volunteer, Roots & Wings has been dedicated to serving these young adults, helping them transition from foster care to independence. Roots & Wings provides young adults who aged out of the foster care system with safe housing, educational support, case management, counseling, and life skills in order to empower motivated individuals toward self-sufficiency.

Through our housing (RISE) and case management (FLY) programs, we provide a safety net protecting our clients from the risks former foster youth face when left without support and guidance. We try to eliminate as many barriers as we can – housing, transportation, cost of education, and then give them the support and empowerment they need to succeed – weekly meetings with their case manager, volunteer mentor, access to mental health services. We currently serve 40 clients each year through our two programs across Morris and Union County, with 25 beds and the plan to open more in 2019.

Roots & Wings first expanded to Union County in 2014, thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers and community members who saw a need and understood the obstacles and lack of services available for youth who aged out of the foster care system. It is because of these extraordinary individuals and the support we receive from Union County that we have been able to grow and help more of these incredible young adults. We started with one apartment – two beds. And in the last four years, we have grown to four apartments and 10 beds! Our most recent apartment, a 3 bedroom, was opened in November with the help of volunteers from Faith Lutheran in New Providence who fully furnished and set up the apartment to make sure it felt like home! In addition to furnishing and setting up apartments, houses of worship have also hosted food drives for our pantry, gift card drives, “adopted” clients for our annual holiday party, and so much more! We are so lucky for the supportive community in Union County and are always looking for ways to engage and work with more volunteers!

To learn more about Roots & Wings, please visit our website  
[www.rootsandwingsnj.org](http://www.rootsandwingsnj.org)





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# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

**By: Pastor Raul Burgos**

*Senior pastor Comunidad Cristiana, a Spanish speaking congregation founded in 1998.  
Former Commissioner of the Elizabeth Board of Education 2002-2012*

Today more than ever I'm convinced that the key to effective, long lasting and positive service to our communities lies in our ability and willingness to forge meaningful partnerships. I'm particularly bias towards those partnerships that happen as a result of the investment in personal relationships.

I know some would argue the opposite: Find a project first and those who join it will eventually develop a good relationship. That also seems to work, but I think it is more limited. Once the needs of the project ceases or evolves, that's the end of the road.

I believe when you develop the relationship first, once that first project is over, there will always be other projects waiting to be tackled. I personally live by that philosophy. I don't pursue projects. I do make an intentional effort to cultivate close, honest, transparent and real relationships and they generally lead to some kind of partnership down the road. That's been the formula for every project or partnership I've been involved in our community for the last 20 plus years.

About eighteen years ago, what was a dilapidated and abandoned large theater in Downtown Elizabeth, that no one wanted to touch and was in danger to be demolished, begun to be transformed because our church got involved in partnership with another church with whom we had a relationship. The project took long seven years to complete, but today the Liberty Center stands as a testimony of the power of partnership through relationships.

For the last few years we have partner with one of the poorest elementary schools in our community so we can provide Christmas gifts for all the children every year. You have to see the children's smiles every December when we deliver the toys on a December morning. Also, you would have to see the adults faces in our church when we show them the pictures the next Sunday on the big projector. These pictures are impossible to watch without everyone considering the profound impact their investment in those toys just made.

But the key for this partnership has been a long time relationship we've had with one of the school directors.

While we wish we could provide for all the needs of our community, there are other organizations that meet those needs better than us. So we build relationships and then try to partner with them in a way that can maximize their effectiveness.

The location where our church meets it's shared with a Music Institute that serves underprivileged kids in our community with excellence. We could not be happier for this opportunity and are looking for ways to partner. I'm a musician too and could teach music, but will never do as good of a job as the Institute does. A good partnership allows each partner to concentrate and excel in its areas of strengths. That's why we are excited to be partnering with the local Salvation Army to provide meals to the homeless. We are providing volunteers and helping advance their mission, because they do that better than no one.

# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP THROUGH RELATIONSHIP CONTINUED....

Even though I have ties that go back more than 25 years with the Salvation Army, this latest partnership between Comunidad Cristiana and Salvation Army is only possible because of my personal relationship with the Salvation Army Divisional Commander.

In a good partnership everyone wins. When we supply volunteers to help Kettle at the Salvation Army, or help with any other program of theirs, more people will receive needed services, but also our volunteers are happy to be investing their time and resources in a difference-making way.

This Christmas I celebrate the gift of Jesus in my own life by loving God and others and by expressing that love by caring for the needs of others, beginning with those closest to me in my own community. I'm looking forward to the new relationships that will come my way the next 20 years, because along with those I already have, the possibilities for more partnerships will only increase and so will the impact of our collective effort.

It is my Joy and privilege to pursue my calling by the power of Partnerships' through relationships.



## PICTURED

Kettleling at Jersey Gardens The Mills Mall

From left to right:

- ◆ Captain Walter Droz, commanding officer Salvation Army Elizabeth.
- ◆ Pastor Raul Burgos, senior pastor Comunidad Cristiana.
- ◆ Jose Montas, Comunidad Cristiana volunteer.





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For more information about our office supports, please contact  
**Laura Hankerson at 908.354.3040, ext. 4240** or visit the Resources tab on **caunj.org**.

# Community Home Care Solutions

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD AND PEACEWORKS A PERFECT WORKING PARTNERSHIP



**Submitted by: Skip Winter**

## **First Presbyterian Church of Cranford**

In the early 1980's, the revolution in Nicaragua against the Contra's was in full swing, with the revolt beginning in 1979. The late Jim Burchell founded Peaceworks in 1992 as an official non-profit organization, an organization dedicated to providing aid and support to the people and organizations in Nicaragua that had dramatically had their entire lives turned upside down. Jim was a dreamer and visionary and a practical activist who had truly believed that lives can be improved and that peace, social justice and economic reforms can be achieved when financial assistance and when "people to people solidarity" and "accompaniment" are provided. Upon Jim's death Denis Johnston, who had been involved since 1989, assumed the role of president, to continue the work that Jim had initiated over 25 years ago. The Rev. Brooks Smith, retired pastor of the Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield and social activist, began working with Peaceworks after traveling to Nicaragua in 1984 with a program called Witness for Peace. Rev. Smith has made over 30 trips to Nicaragua over the years and along with the members of Peaceworks, have assisted in working with many different organizations and guiding them in a positive direction, looking to improve their quality of life.

In 2013, based on his working relationship with Brooks Smith through the Presbytery of Elizabeth, Skip Winter, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Cranford and a member of the Service and Mission Team of the church, merged the efforts of Peaceworks and the interest of the First Presbyterian of Cranford in developing international mission partners, to begin working together. One could say it was a **"Match Made in Heaven."** Over the year's members and friends of First Presbyterian Cranford have traveled to Nicaragua and will be making their 7<sup>th</sup> trip at the end of January 2019. First Presbyterian of Cranford has also assisted in bringing social justice leaders of Nicaragua to the United States to fundraise and to host meetings to raise awareness of the some of the dire circumstances in Nicaragua, especially for women, the homeless and those seeking potable water in rural areas.

Through these cooperative efforts between Peaceworks and First Presbyterian, organizations such as **FEDICAMP**, which works with families in rural areas on obtaining potable water and improving agricultural practices, **INHJAMBIA**, which works with young people who are often homeless and come from families that are distracted by drugs, alcohol and domestic and sexual abuse, and **AXAYACATL**, an organization that assists women who suffer from domestic and sexual abuse, have been able to make tremendous strides in accomplishing both their short term and long term goals. Both Peaceworks and First Presbyterian Church of Cranford are very proud of their efforts in changing lives of at risk families, women and children in Nicaragua.

As the struggles continue, both Peaceworks and First Presbyterian will be there continuing their partnership to assist in providing the people of Nicaragua the economic stability and freedom from domestic abuse and homelessness that they deserve.





# **UNION COUNTY FIGHTS BACK AGAINST THE OPIOID CRISIS:**

## **NARCAN TRAININGS TO SAVE LIVES 2019 Winter Trainings**

**Dec. 4th- Rahway Recreation Center- 275 E. Milton Ave., Rahway**

**Jan 8th- Summit Oaks- 19 Prospect St, Summit**

**Jan 17th- Cranford Community Center-220 Walnut Ave., Cranford**

**Jan 29th- Connecticut Farms Church- 888 Stuyvesant Ave, Union**

**Feb. 1st- St. Joseph's Social Service Center- 118 Division St. Elizabeth**

**Feb 7th- Prevention Links- 121 Chestnut St., Roselle**

**Feb. 12th- Rahway Recreation Center- 275 E Milton Ave, Rahway,**

**Feb 19th.- Organization For Recovery- 519 North Ave, Plainfield**

**Feb. 21st- RWJ Fitness & Wellness Center -2120 Lamberts Mill Rd, Scotch Plains**

**Feb. 26th- Connecticut Farms Church- 888 Stuyvesant Ave. Union**

**March 1st- St. Joseph's Social Service Center- 118 Division St. Elizabeth**

**March 7th- Prevention Links- 121 Chestnut St. Roselle**

**March 12th- Summit Oaks- 19 Prospect St. Summit.**

**March 14th- Rahway Recreation Center- 275 E. Milton Ave. Rahway**

**Mar. 21st- RWJ Fitness & Wellness Center-2120 Lamberts Mill Rd, Scotch Plains**

**March 27th- Springfield Township- \*Location in Progress \***

**ALL TRAININGS ARE FREE AND THE FIRST 25 PEOPLE TO ARRIVE WILL  
RECEIVE A FREE NARCAN KIT!**

**TRAININGS BEGIN AT 6:00PM !**

**(11AM for Feb. 1st & March 1st training)**

**NO REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY. ALL ARE WELCOMED TO ATTEND.  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS FEEL FREE TO CONTACT**

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# OPERATION WARM HEART WELCOMES YOU



Dear Friend in Faith,

The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless began this year's Operation Warm Heart season together with a robust group of volunteers from the faith community. As the lifeline of the Operation Warm Heart program, we cherish our volunteers for providing a safe haven, a warm heal, and an open heart to the homeless.

The beauty of all faiths is that we all have a calling to shelter the homeless and feed the hungry. As an interfaith initiative, Operation Warm Heart allows for houses of faith to open their doors to our most needy neighbors. We welcome any and all houses of faith who would be interested in being part of our compassionate community.

There are many opportunities to be involved in the Operation Warm Heart program. Whether it is through hosting OWH at your physical location, or travelling to sites with already established programs, volunteers who experience doing this service have an amplified sense of community, belonging, and purpose.

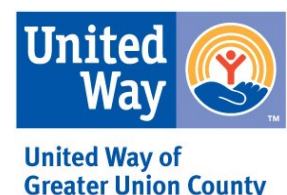
We are currently experiencing a shortage of cots/beds (\$45 each), "on-call" overnight volunteers, afternoon hospitality volunteers from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., **and a host site for every Tuesday and Sunday evenings.**

If you have any questions or would like to know more about how to get involved with OWH, please do not hesitate to email or call. I can be reached at [erodriguez@theelizabethcoalition.org](mailto:erodriguez@theelizabethcoalition.org) or on 908-355-2060, ext. 302.

Sincerely,

Erica Rodriguez  
Operation Warm Heart Coordinator  
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Operation Warm Heart is a life-changing winter shelter program that is open from December 1st to March 31st throughout houses of worship in Elizabeth, Rahway, Linden, Cranford, and Scotch Plains and has housed over 1,200 homeless individuals over 15 years.





# Religious Services at CAU

Did you know that the CAU community is exploring religion and having worship in a unique and innovative way?



UCICC member, Reverend Aleyah Lacey of Mount Teman A.M. E. Church on Saturdays gathers members of CAU's (Community Access Unlimited) DD Community and TOP youth to explore faith and worship. You are invited to share your faith and talents at these interfaith services. Services are held on Saturdays at 11am and 1pm and are for an hour long. If you have a positive inspirational message, would like to provide worship, and have a willing heart to serve please consider being a blessing at these interfaith services.

*Rev. Aleyah Lacey pictured left*

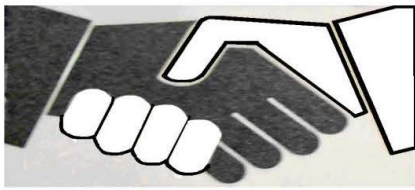
Our objectives are:

1. To provide a safe space for our members to worship God
2. To foster spiritual growth through the diverse understandings of God
3. To build up the community in faith, hope, and love

If you would like to volunteer in this amazing ministerial opportunity or find out more, please contact Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council at [UCInterfaith@caunj.org](mailto:UCInterfaith@caunj.org)







Interfaith Human Relations Committee  
of the of the Cranford Clergy Council

c/o First Presbyterian Church of Cranford  
11 Springfield Avenue  
Cranford, New Jersey 07016

December 16, 2018

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your continuous support, as we prepare to embark upon our seventh annual Dr. King Service Project Fair 2019 with another opportunity to be of service to others.

This year, in preparation for the 2019 Dr. King Service Project Fair, the main projects are: monetary donations to Backpacks for Life ([www.backpacksforlife.org](http://www.backpacksforlife.org)) to be used to purchase backpacks for homeless veterans. The cost of the backpack is \$21.95. However, the organization has a campaign to collect donations to begin manufacturing a newly designed backpack. **For the Dr King Service Project Fair, all donations will go toward helping the organization reach their goal of \$120,000 for their Bowery Pack Campaign: their goal is train veterans to manufacture and distribute the Bowery backpacks to homeless veterans.**

Our second main project is to collect and assemble food packages for active duty servicemen and servicewoman. Also, we will continue to collect and assemble personal care products bags for the YWCA Women's Shelter and Community Access Unlimited (Elizabeth). We will continue to collect and donate diapers to Raphael's Life House and cleaning products for Homefirst in Plainfield and FISH Hospitality. Lunches will be made to be donated to St Joseph's Mission (Elizabeth) and Food for Friends (Rahway).

More information about dropping off the items will be forthcoming; however, the drop off date will be on Sunday evening, January 20, 2019 (6:00 – 8:00pm). The items should be sorted to allow the volunteers to assemble the bags at the Service Project Fair. Any youth group is invited to help set up on Sunday or assist with cleaning up on Monday after the Fair.

#### **Collection of Goods:**

**(Goal 125 personal care bags) Each House of Worship is asked to donate a minimum of 15 of each item.**

- Individually packaged toothbrush
- Toothpaste – 6 -8 ozs. ( no travel or family sizes)
- Deodorant
- Soap

**(Goal 24 Cleaning products bags): Each House of Worship is asked to donate at least 5 of each item:**

- multi-purpose spray cleaner
- bottled multi-purpose cleaner
- toilet bowl cleaner
- dish detergent
- wipes and/or sponges.
- Various sizes of disposable diapers – as many as possible

(Goal 25 Priority Mail Boxes (12x12x5)) Food care packages for active duty troops of all branches on the military. The contact person for each platoon will distribute the snacks to the soldiers. The boxes will be randomly filled with packages containing individually wrapped or individual portion sizes; which will be distributed to the soldiers by a platoon contact person.

Any combination of at least 20 of the following items:

Boxes of individually packaged:

- granola bars
- protein bars
- dried fruit or nuts
- individually packaged of cookies
- jerky – no pork
- tuna packets
- instant oatmeal packs
- canned fruit
- peanut butter and jelly (no glass)
- microwaveable meals including mac and cheese
- protein powder packs
- powdered juice individual packs
- wipes –small containers

If you know of any agencies, individual, or clubs that might be interested in making a donation to Backpacks for Life or helping to collect the items, to help us to reach our goals please share this information. This is a community event that includes everyone coming together to better our community.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Sincerely,

Janice Grevious  
908-688-2659  
[janicegrevious@gmail.com](mailto:janicegrevious@gmail.com)  
and Cindy Hannen  
[cindy@patwin.com](mailto:cindy@patwin.com)  
908-272-9133

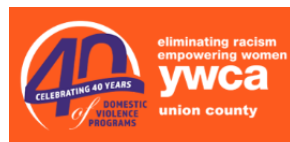
*For more information on the organizations mentioned see their websites listed below:*

**ST. JOSEPH  
Social Service Center**

[www.sjeliz.org](http://www.sjeliz.org)



[www.rahwayfoodforfriendsnj.org](http://www.rahwayfoodforfriendsnj.org)



[www.ywcaunioncounty.org](http://www.ywcaunioncounty.org)



[www.fishhospitality.org](http://www.fishhospitality.org)



[www.homefirstinc.org](http://www.homefirstinc.org)



[www.backpacksforlife.org](http://www.backpacksforlife.org)



[www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org)



[www.raphaelshouse.org](http://www.raphaelshouse.org)



## CAU Hosts a weekly Open House Mondays from 4 PM -6 PM

80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ  
07202

Don't forget your resume and  
come prepared to fill out an application

To make an appointment, please call an  
HR representative at (908) 354-3040 ext  
4203. If you are unable to attend the open  
house, please fax resume to (908) 354-  
0283 or email to [rwright@caunj.org](mailto:rwright@caunj.org).

# JOIN OUR TEAM!

Community Access Unlimited welcomes those with a big heart!  
Due to our continuing expansion, there are a  
number of **full time** and **part time** openings for those  
interested in guiding people with disabilities and youth at risk who are  
on the road to independence.

For those looking for part-time positions, CAU offers  
available house on the weekends and overnights!  
Minimum requirements are:

- Valid driver's license
- Access to vehicle daily to use for work purpose
- Original High School Diploma/GED/College Degree

Experience working with individuals with developmental  
disabilities and/or youth at risk are a plus! Of course  
compassion for the work and a flexible schedule is also  
required when providing support to our members.

Working at CAU is not just a job but a career! We offer  
promotional opportunities for employees, competitive salaries and a  
comprehensive benefits package to full time employees!

Please take the time to visit our agency website [www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org) for  
more information and current listings.  
openings. Community Access Unlimited is an Equal  
Opportunity Employer.

## UCICC –CAU COMMUNITY HELP LINE

**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH FOOD? HOME HEALTH OR PERSONAL CARE  
HOME AND PROPERTY CARE  
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?**

Call CAU's Information and Referral Office at  
**908-354-3040 [X 4272]** for answers and resources.

CAU's community service mission includes providing direct services to people in need as well as infor-  
mation on how to locate services provided by other agencies.

This month we highlight **one of CAU services available to qualified recipients** in our Union County  
communities.

1] **Free home delivered meals** [6 week program; one meal per person per day] for Union County resi-  
dents who are US citizens and their families who need food and who are:

\*Age 59 or younger [head of household]; \*Living in low income households;

\* Unable to access adequate food for themselves and their families.

\* Documents and interview are required to qualify.

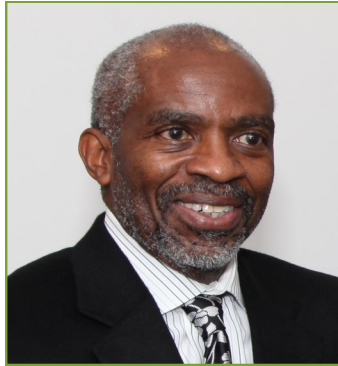
**Contact Gene Tavera X 4272.**



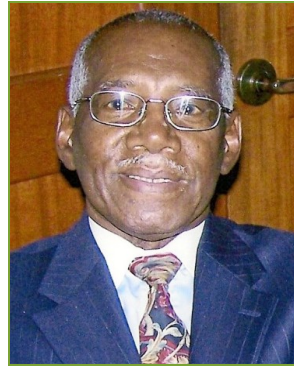
# UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



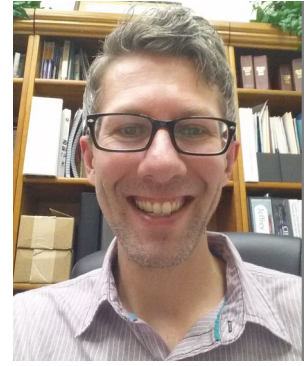
*Sidney Blanchard,  
Executive Director  
Community Access Unlimited  
sblanchard@caunj.org*



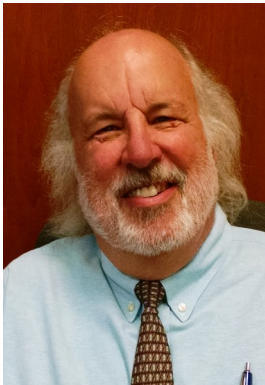
*Roderick (Rod) Spearman  
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator  
rspearman@caunj.org*



*Pastor Howard A. Bryant,  
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator  
hbryant@caunj.org*



*Pastor Carmine Pernini  
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator  
cpernini@caunj.org*



*AH 'Skip' Winter  
UCICC Steering  
Committee Member*



*Michelle Mobley  
CAU Director of Youth  
Service Residential  
mmobley@caunj.org*



*Charlene Walker  
UCICC Administrative Assistant  
cwalker@caunj.org*

## Join & Be Active Today!

- Attend monthly meetings.
- Invite other community leaders to attend our meetings and events.
- Support or host fundraising programs to support the Record Expungement Grant Program.
- Sign up for our mailing list.
- Share useful information about your organization.

Contact Rod Spearman at  
908-354-3040 x 4324  
for more information on becoming  
a member



### Advertise in the UCICC Newsletter!

Have an exciting event or program happening?

Reach out and build bonds with members of the interfaith community in Union County by advertising in this newsletter!

Please send all print-ready ads to Rod Spearman at [rspearman@caunj.org](mailto:rspearman@caunj.org) by the **13th** of every month to save a space!



Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council c/o Community Access Unlimited  
80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
Phone: (908) 354-3040 x4324 • Email: [UCInterfaith@caunj.org](mailto:UCInterfaith@caunj.org)

[www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil)



80 West Grand Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
Phone: 908-354-3040 TTY/TTD: 908-354-4629  
Fax: 908-354-2665 www.caunj.org

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 225  
Elizabeth, NJ

**Community Access Unlimited's Mission:** *To provide community access through effective and comprehensive support services for people with disabilities and at-risk youth, giving them the opportunity to live independently and to lead normal and productive lives in the community.*

## UCICC & STEERING COMMITTEE UP-COMING EVENTS

### UCICC Steering Committee

January 3, 2019 at 10am  
80 W. Grand Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
See Right side →

### Embodying MLK: A Community Organizing Event

Date: January 24, 2018  
Time: 6pm-9pm  
Location: Mount Teman AME Church  
160 Madison Ave.—Elizabeth NJ 07201

### UCICC Steering Committee

February 7, 2019 at 10:00am  
80 W Grand St  
Elizabeth NJ 07202  
See Right side →

Bias Crimes in NJ  
A Community Forum

Date: TBD  
Location: TBD

### UCICC Steering Committee

March 7, 2019 at 10:00am  
80 W Grand St  
Elizabeth NJ 07202  
See Right side →

### Women of Faith Conference

March 16, 2018  
Time: 9am-2pm  
Location: Community Access Unlimited  
80W. Grand St.—Elizabeth, NJ 07202



Rod Spearman  
Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council  
c/o Community Access Unlimited  
80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
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