

Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council



JUNE 2019

SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

WORKING TO AFFIRM THE DIGNITY AND EQUALITY OF ALL “HEALTHY SOIL, WATER, AND AIR”

“Environmental protection doesn’t happen in a vacuum. You can’t separate the impact on the environment from the impact on our families and communities.” - Congressman Jim Clyburn



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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 . You are invited to share your faith and talents at 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.

*If you would like to volunteer in this amazing ministerial opportunity or find out more, please contact
Rev Lacey at Alacey@caunj.org*



UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL Steering Committee Members

Deacon Tim Williams-Chair
First Baptist Church
Kenilworth

Sidney Blanchard
Associate Executive Director of Community
Relations— CAU

Rabbi Joel N. Abraham
Temple Sholom
Scotch Plains

Ayaz Aslam
Muslim Community Center of UC
Elizabeth

Pastor H. Bryant
Honorable Retired
Presbyterian Church USA

Denise Fernandes
Latino Outreach

Rev. Aleyah Lacey
CAU Religious Services

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: Dear Neighbor

Meet Your Neighbor Aqsa Khan

Dear Neighbor,

Sometimes it can be intimidating to put yourself out there, and share yourself with others. It can feel easier to stay in your shell and community where you feel safe and comfortable, and hold back from engaging with those who seem unfamiliar. However, the more that I think about our country's current challenges, the more I feel that one of the most pressing needs is for people to become uncomfortable and reach out to those that are not just like them. In that effort, I introduce myself to you.

My name is Aqsa, and when someone asks me where I'm from, I usually say New York. Though I was born in West Texas, and spent my elementary school years there, my formative years of middle school through college were in New York City. My parents emigrated from Pakistan before I was born, and though I made a couple of trips to visit relatives there, home has always been the U.S.



After I got married and started a family, my husband and I realized that a small apartment in Manhattan wasn't ideal for a home with three young boys. Five years ago, we took a leap and moved to East Brunswick, NJ. We wouldn't be too far from the boys' school and a drive to the city would still be under an hour. As a teacher who worked at a New York City public school for five years, I was also looking forward to continuing to teach at NUI, a private school in South Brunswick.

Being a visible Muslim who wears hijab, the Muslim head covering, sometimes it feels like I embody and represent Islam to every person I meet. Whether it's my next-door neighbors or my kids' swim coach, I aim to greet everyone with a smile because I want them to know that Muslims are kind, open people who want to help when they can. Having been a high school student in New York when September 11th happened left a big impression on me. I have constantly felt the need to absolve my fellow Muslims for the actions of reprehensible people, and sometimes I've put more pressure on myself than necessary. I often assumed that others would perceive me negatively for being Muslim, and learned they often harbored no negative feelings. More often than not, I realized they were just curious. It's become more clear with time that the more I engage with my neighbors and community, the more they understand who I am and where I come from, and the more I realize that we are all a lot more nuanced than we think. I look forward to getting to know others from my community in East Brunswick and all around New Jersey.

Aqsa Khan

Places of Worship: New Brunswick Islamic Center & Islamic Society of Central Jersey

Neighborhood: East Brunswick

Join us on June 11th at Know Your Neighbor and meet more neighbors. We will share our personal stories. The stories that make us who we are. What we wish the world knew about us if someone was simply to ask. Let's learn to truly see each other!

Know Your Neighbor

Share Your Story and enjoy your favorite cup of tea.



Tuesday, June 11, 2019

5:30 pm to 8 pm

Westfield Community Room

425 East Broad St., Westfield, NJ 07090

Park at the side of the bldg. or in the back. Enter from the front door on East Broad St.

Registration: [Click here](#)

Free admission, just bring your smile!



www.caunj.org



NJ-ING

www.njing.org



**SARDAR
TEA**

www.sardartea.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Register Now! Sign up for Day of Prayer and RSVP by September 19th at <https://6th-annual-union-county-day-of-prayer.eventbrite.com>

6th Annual Day of Prayer and Reflection **Striving to Make a Beloved Community**



Union County
Day of Prayer
September 24, 2019
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



The Presbyterian Church in Westfield
140 Mountain Ave.
Westfield, NJ 07090



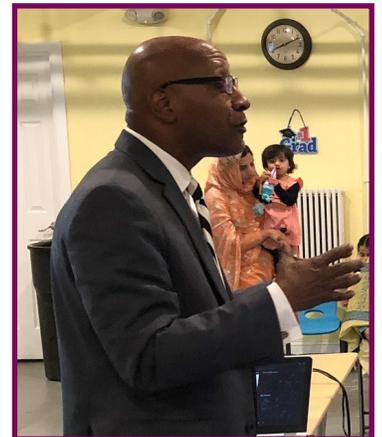
*Working to facilitate the building of bonds within the interfaith community,
promoting the respect, inclusion and welcoming of others.*

Sponsored by: Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council and Community Access Unlimited

Faith in Action

PICTURED

- May 23, 2019 the Muslim Community Center of Union Countys (MCCUC) Interfaith Iftar.



May 24, 2019 the Muslim Community Center of Union County (MCCUC) invited members of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, Faith in New Jersey, the Interfaith Community, Elizabeth Police Department, Elizabeth Fire Department, Union County Prosecutors Office, Homeland Security, the US Census Bureau, and the center's Islamic community to share in Iftar. Everyone was treated to an informational session on Islam and Ramadan. There was also an informational about the upcoming census. All of the attendees then shared in fellowship over a delicious meal.

Faith in Action

PICTURED

- Faith in New Jersey held “Power to the People” Faith in Union County Regional Meeting to organize the community on May 8th. Over 70 people were in attendance to address racial justice, immigration justice, economic justice, gun violence, and environmental justice concerns in Union County. UCICC members were active participants in this event from our community partner.



At the end of the event Faith in New Jersey welcomed Dane Foster (pictured left with his children) freed the same day from New Jersey ICE detention after five months.

“A father of four and husband to a disabled veteran, Dane is a green card holder who was arrested by ICE because of old misdemeanor offense for which he paid fines several years ago. He was detained at the Essex County Correctional facility where serious health and safety violations have been documented.

Faith in New Jersey has been mobilizing on his behalf since his arrest, staging actions at the correctional facility and vigils at the New Jersey ICE Headquarters in Newark. Now that Dane is free, he is moving forward on filing an application for citizenship. We are celebrating his release, and would like to thank all of our leaders and community for working beside us on this effort. It is through your perseverance and faith that we are all able to celebrate this victory.”

Archange Antoine, Executive Director—Faith in New Jersey



TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE OUR CHILDREN

Reverend Dr. Charles Boyer



We need to remove the phrase “kids will be kids” from our collective lexicon. There is no doubt, kids *will be* kids; children as they grow up are prone to make mistakes and it is our responsibility as a community to teach, care for, and train our children. But because our criminal justice system remains so incredibly biased, kids being kids is met with the system being the system. New Jersey boasts horrifying disparities in our youth justice system, where children of color are sometimes criminalized for adolescent behavior and sent away from their families and communities – often locked up for years for simply being kids. New Jersey has the worst Black to [white youth incarceration disparity rate](#) in the nation. In our state, a Black child is 30 times – 30 times – more likely to be detained or committed to a youth facility than a white child, while they [commit most offenses at about the same rate](#). [As of early this month](#), of the 205 kids committed to a juvenile justice facility, 150 are Black and 16 are white. This is the result of deep systemic bias-

es in how our children are treated by law enforcement. A Black child who acts out in school is often treated much differently than a white kid who misbehaves the same way. What often leads to White after-school detention can often lead to Black incarceration. This tendency to demonize black children can destroy young lives and devastate families. As pastors here in New Jersey, we see this devastation every day and try to help people manage the pain and suffering that comes from seeing these young lives ruined for no reason. The system is not only biased, but it does not work as a deterrent to crime. Of the [377 youth released from commitment](#) in state youth facilities in 2014, about 77% had a new court filing or arrest, about 59% had a new adjudication or conviction, and almost a quarter were recommitted within three years of release.

Nelson Mandela said that, “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” If this is the barometer of our state’s soul, we are in desperate need of resuscitation. We believe that those that love justice are called, as Rev. Dr. William Barber once said, to be the moral defibrillator’s of this state. We have been working with a large coalition to right this wrong. Salvation and Social Justice, along with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, the NAACP, My Brother’s Keeper-Newark and others, are all part of the [150 Years is Enough campaign](#), named to number the years – now 152 – that Jamesburg, one of New Jersey’s youth prisons, has been open. We have come together endorse a transformation of our juvenile justice system into a system of community-based care where investments are made in our kids, not in incarcerating them; where there is no longer a pernicious “school-to-prison pipeline”; where wraparound services and support structures are embedded in the community so that kids stay out of the system; and where, when out-of-home placement is necessary, youth are held in small, community-based, therapeutic residential programs with the ultimate goal of returning to their homes. The money that is spent on incarcerating even one child, would provide much needed resources to communities searching for ways to be proactive in the development of our children.

We were happy to celebrate progress made in this fight when, in January 2018, the state announced that

TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE OUR CHILDREN

Reverend Dr. Charles Boyer

two of its youth prisons, Jamesburg for boys, and Hayes for girls, would close. Today, those prisons remain open. We thought that we had made further progress when Gov. Murphy appointed a Task Force to provide recommendations to the Governor's Office, the legislature and other agencies on strategies to reform New Jersey's youth justice system. But while the Task Force has only just begun its work, the state submitted a letter of intent to build a new youth prison in Newark – on an environmentally compromised site – without any community input. While we're glad that Mayor Baracka has declared it won't happen, the Governor has yet to state that clearly. Either way, there is a plan to build three new facilities in the state. With new beds come the economic incentive to fill them – with our children. The community does not benefit from these new prisons. There is no economic incentive for the community to see a new prison be built, there is only money to be made by contractors on the backs of young black and brown children. The shameful price tag of each of our children is \$289,000 per year per child. No matter how you look at it this is slavery by another name. Yet we have faith leaders, political figures, and investors willing to shackle young black bodies in order to line their own pockets.

Adding more insult to this deep injury is that fact that all three of our existing youth prisons are at half capacity, as are the state's eleven existing non-secure youth facilities. We have more than enough space now for young people that are currently jailed and instead of funneling resources to make sure that we won't need those beds that are currently open, we are contracting to build more prisons. This cannot continue. If the system is going to be the system, then the community has to be the community and stand up for our kids. We still believe that when the people, put our hearts together, put our heads together, and put on our walking shoes, true transformation is possible. On Saturday, May 18, the 150 Years is Enough campaign is holding a Lock Arms to Unlock Our Kids rally in Newark at West Side High School, after which we will march a few blocks to the proposed site for the new youth prison and capture an aerial photo of us locking arms around it, a symbol of our unified commitment. Please join us, and sign our open letter to elected officials. We are fighting for a state where kids can be kids, the youth criminal justice system will be a youth criminal justice system and where our communities will get to be our communities again.

Together, we will show New Jersey – and show our children – that we care, and we won't give up.

Together, we can save our children.

Dr. Charles F. Boyer
Salvation and Social Justice



CONTAMINATED WATER IN NJ: PFAS IN OUR WATER

Reverend Carmine Pernini
Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church Rahway



The United Nations General Assembly recognized “The Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRWS)” as an international law on July 28, 2010. HRWS urges governments to ensure that people can enjoy clean, available, acceptable, accessible, and affordable water and sanitation. The US Constitution and the Bill of Rights do not mention clean drinking water as a right.

When we think of contaminated drinking water many conjure Flint, Michigan and lead poisoned water sources. While Flint’s water problems are as yet resolved, New Jerseyans rarely, if ever, think of NJ’s water in the same thought as Flint’s.

Yet, a recent report by the Environmental Work Group (EWG) recently named 43 sites in NJ that have been contaminated with toxic chemicals(<https://patch.com/new-jersey/clark/united-water-rahway-named-contaminated-site-list-report>). Much to my surprise, my town of Rahway was named on the list. The report stated that 43 water sites in NJ had been contaminated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl which are collectively known as PFAS. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers concentrations greater than 70 parts per trillion as harmful and have issued an advisory to that end(<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>).

PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries in the US since the 1940s. These chemicals don’t break down and can accumulate in the environment and the human body over time. Per the EPA, most people have been exposed to PFAS. The EPA states, “PFAS can cause reproductive and developmental, liver and kidney, and immunological effects in laboratory animals(<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas#exposed>).” PFAS have caused tumors in animals.

When I read the headline in my newsfeed alleging that Rahway’s drinking water was contaminated I was surprised and shocked. I had never heard of PFAS. I wondered, “Is Rahway the next Flint?” I quickly posted the article on the local Rahway social media pages so that others could read the report for themselves. The following morning I called Suez Water(United Water Rahway), Rahway’s local water provider, to inquire about the report. I spoke with a manager who disputed the findings of EWG’s report. Later I spoke with representatives from the city of Rahway who disputed the findings of EWG’s report. EWG asserted that Rahway had tested in a range from 0-99 parts per trillion (PPT). Suez’s own tests have had the level of PFAS in the water at a maximum of 30PPT. Suez, along with the city of Rahway, both said that they expect the EPA to lower the threshold of allowable PFAS in drinking water in 2020. Both Suez and representatives from the city of Rahway said they are committed to reducing the number of PFAS in the water ahead of the expected revised rules from the EPA.

Regardless of the discrepancy between EWG’s and Suez’s reports in Rahway, the state of NJ has taken water contaminated by PFAS seriously. Recently, in March 2019, the State sued DuPont and Chemours(a DuPont affiliate) for their contamination of Pompton Lakes after 40 years of complaints from residents for DuPont’s contamination of the site. The State’s lawsuit also included facilities in Parlin, Repauno, Greenwich, Gloucester County, and Pennsville.

CONTAMINATED WATER IN NJ: PFAS IN OUR WATER

Reverend Carmine Pernini
Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church Rahway

The State Department of Environmental Protection has identified five companies it says are responsible for the “extensive contamination,” they are: Solvay, DuPont, Dow Dupont, Chemours, and 3M. For a list of contaminated sites, see here: <https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/state.php?stab=NJ>.

In a separate suit, Ridgewood Water sued DuPont, 3M, Honeywell International Inc, Tyco Fire Products LP, Chemguard Inc., Buckeye Fire Equipment Co., and National Foam Inc. for contaminating 44 of its 52 municipal supply wells(<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/bergen/2019/03/11/ridgewood-nj-water-sues-corporations-over-contamination-pfas-pfoa/3080002002/>).

The persistent challenge for all of us going forward is to advocate for our environment, clean water, and clean air (NJ just received an “F” for its air quality - <http://newjersey.news12.com/story/40364045/american-lung-association-gives-new-jersey-an-f-in-for-air-quality>). Most of the time environmental issues go un-addressed until people speak up. And, it usually takes a whole lot of people to speak up to actually get something done to address the problem. As I understand it, we have an uphill battle advocating for a clean environment because most of the bad actors are large corporations and the US military(<https://www.ewg.org/research/pfas-chemicals-contaminate-us-military-sites>). If the past teaches us anything, most of the time, individual complaints are handled by cash settlements which come wrapped in non-disclosure agreements (See the book “Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation” which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2014 for non-fiction which details how large corporations dumped chemicals into water and the ground which produced cancer clusters. The topic was incredibly difficult to research because people had been silenced by payments and nondisclosure agreements - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toms_River_\(book\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toms_River_(book))).

The difficulty that we have in advocating for our environment can not be a deterrent to collective action. Terms like the “1%”, income inequality, consumer protection, and living wages have all become a common place in our civic discourse largely because of decades long struggles by working folks advocating for themselves over against the affluent and powerful. We will go a long when we recognize that we are not beginning the work, but carrying on the work of many normal folks who came before us. State intervention and collective action have produced results in NJ recently, largely because people spoke up about the harm that contaminated water has done to themselves and/or their community. If you are concerned about your drinking water or any other environmental concern please email me at: carmineperni@gmail.com. I am no expert, but I can help in putting you in contact with people who are specialists in environmental concerns.



Introduction

To educate stakeholders on problems and solutions and to empower stakeholders in the planning and management of their water infrastructure, **Louis Berger**, a member of **Jersey Water Works**, has developed this fact sheet on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), contaminants of emerging concern. The Jersey Water Works Education and Outreach committee and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) also played important roles in the development of this resource.



This fact sheet provides an introduction to PFAS chemicals, their uses, potential risks, major sources in the environment, occurrence in New Jersey’s public water systems, regulatory developments, remediation information, and links to additional resources. It was published in March 2019.

What should I know about PFAS?

- PFAS are a diverse group of synthetic chemicals, considered useful in some manufacturing applications because they are resistant to heat, water, and oil. See the family tree diagram.¹
- Certain PFAS are environmentally mobile, accumulate through the food chain, and are not known to degrade in the environment.
- Exposure to certain PFAS through consumer products, contaminated drinking water, food, soil, or other media can lead to adverse human health effects.
- PFAS are not removed from water by boiling.
- Certain PFAS are found in the blood of virtually all U.S. residents. This widespread exposure is believed to arise primarily from diet and consumer products.
- When drinking water is contaminated with even relatively low concentrations of PFAS, drinking water exposure can overwhelm general exposures from diet and consumer products.²
- PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both are very persistent in the environment and in the human body.
- Use of PFOA and PFOS has been phased out voluntarily in the U.S. by major manufacturers due to concerns about their accumulation in the human body. However, past contamination, particularly in groundwater, will persist indefinitely. Additionally, importing products made with PFAS is still allowed.

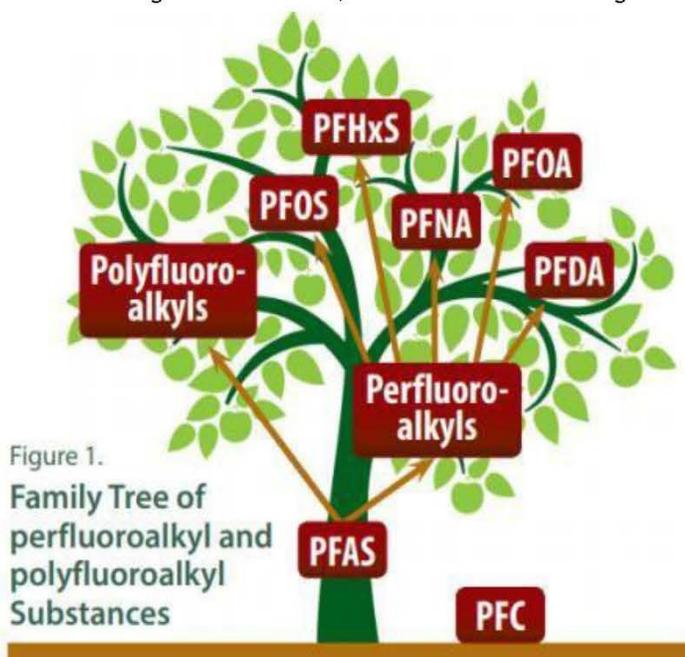


Figure 1. Family Tree of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl Substances

What health effects are associated with PFAS?⁴

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), PFAS exposure can lead to adverse outcomes in humans. If humans, or animals, ingest PFAS (by eating food or drinking water that contains PFAS), the PFAS are absorbed, and can accumulate in the body. PFAS stay in the human body for long periods of time. As a result, as people get exposed to PFAS from different sources over time, the level of PFAS in their bodies may increase to the point where health impacts become evident.



Studies indicate that PFOA and PFOS can have reproductive, developmental, liver, kidney, and immunological effects in laboratory animals. Both sets of chemicals have caused tumors in animals.

The most consistent findings from human epidemiology studies are increased cholesterol levels, liver enzymes and uric acid among exposed populations, with more limited findings related to:

- Decreased infant birth weights;
- Negative effects on the immune system, including decreased response to vaccinations;
- Cancer (for PFOA).

The potential effects on human health of exposure to PFAS continue to be studied.

What remediation technologies exist for affected utilities?

PFAS remediation technologies at contaminated sites exploit chemical and physical properties to immobilize, remove, or destroy the targeted contaminants. Currently, full-scale PFAS treatment in water is limited to absorption, using carbon, mineral media (e.g. clay), or a combination of these. Available drinking water treatment technology can remove PFAS to non-detectable levels, and additional PFAS treatment technologies are being tested.



Where can I find more information?

- [US EPA – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\)](#)
- [US EPA – Technical Fact Sheet – Perfluorooctane Sulfonate \(PFOS\) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid \(PFOA\)](#)
- [DEP – Contaminants of Emerging Concern \(PFAS\)](#)
- [DOH – Drinking Water Facts: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Drinking Water](#)
- [Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council – PFAS Fact Sheets](#)
- [DWQI reports supporting MCL recommendations for PFOA, PFOS, and PFNA](#)
- [DEP Standards Compendium](#)
- [DEP Rules and Regulations](#)

About Jersey Water Works

Jersey Water Works is working to transform New Jersey's inadequate water infrastructure through sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide communities with clean water and waterways; healthier, safer neighborhoods; local jobs; flood and climate resilience; and economic growth. Learn more at www.JerseyWaterWorks.org

¹ The family tree of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for environmental health professionals: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/PFAS_FamilyTree_EnvHealthPro-508.pdf

² Post GB, Gleason JA, Cooper KR (2017) Key scientific issues in developing drinking water guidelines for perfluoroalkyl acids: Contaminants of emerging concern. PLoS Biol 15(12):e2002855.

³ https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/pfas_fact_sheet_history_and_use__11_13_17.pdf

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

⁵ https://greensciencepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Andy_Eaton_UCMR3_PFAS_data.pdf

⁶ https://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/dw/final_pfoa_report.pdf

⁶ Post, G.B., Louis, J.B., Lippincott, R.L., and Procopio, N.A. (2013). Occurrence of perfluorinated chemicals in raw water from New Jersey public drinking water systems. Env. Sci. Technol. 47:13266-75.



KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN!

#TRASHTAG CHALLENGE



Groundwork Elizabeth



Groundwork Elizabeth



@gwelizabeth

Join Mayor Chris Bollwage, Waterfront Alliance and Groundwork Elizabeth's efforts to continue our ongoing commitment to clean our Elizabeth urban trails, waterfronts and waterways.

Dates:

1. June 15, 2019
2. July 13, 2019 **City of Water Day**
3. August 10, 2019

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Location: 34 S Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202. At the Elizabeth River Trail Arch.

Look for registration table upon arrival.

Registration Link: Refer to Groundwork Elizabeth Website for link!

For more Information: www.groundworkelizabeth.org or call (908)-289-0262



Community Service Hours Provided!
Bring your forms!
Snacks and refreshments provided.



PARTNERSHIPS LEAD TO GREENER MORE INVESTED COMMUNITIES.

By Jonathan Phillips, Executive Director, Groundwork Elizabeth

How do you double or even triple your influence in life? In the environment? In your community?

The answer is partnerships. Whether it is a friend, a business, a public agency, a non profit, a foundation, having a shared goal is certainly the way to leverage your assets.

Groundwork Elizabeth (GWE) is a 501c3 non-profit, founded in Elizabeth, N.J. in 2003 with the goal of building healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities. We do this through the development and management of programs and projects that improve and enhance our local urban challenged environment and educate and employ its community members in Elizabeth, N.J. and in local surrounding communities.

We are part of a Groundwork USA affiliate program which helps support our mission and goals.

Our program areas include:

- **Youth Initiative Programming:** The development and oversight of a youth initiative known as the “Green Team”. Geared to our Elizabeth and Union County youth from 14-24, we facilitate quality experiential volunteer, work, and leadership experiences for our communities’ young people.
- **Our Urban Waters, Lands, and Air:** We value the quality of our urban environment and strive to work on programming that focuses the community on issues surrounding environmental justice, including pursuit of clean water, air, accessibility to our local, County, State, and National parks, National Refuges, and open spaces. We work with partners on programming that mitigates Climate challenges.
- **Healthy Communities:** Using underutilized vacant land and open space for community good, we have developed a network of urban agricultural sites and programs within Elizabeth and Union County. Our Come Grow With Us! program has more than 130 community led urban gardens, including 2 large 50 bed community gardens. We are undergoing the construction of a microfarm on Public Library property. Groundwork works with a community Coalition called “Shaping Elizabeth” which works to create a culture of health within the City. Our programming includes an Annual Bicycle Tour around the City known as the Tour de Elizabeth
- **Green Careers and Green Opportunities:** We oversee a Green Workforce initiative program which educates, fosters skills for youth, provides hands on skill training, interviewing tips for youth and adults from our local neighborhoods and who can benefit from training in Green related workforce opportunities.

Partnerships with the Mayor of Elizabeth, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the State Department of Environmental Protection, the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, with links to local community groups and non profits helps Groundwork make substantive improvements in the City. Two signature projects come to mind. Groundwork worked with Federal, Local, County, and State partners to engage the community to design and build a multi phased River Trail along the Elizabeth River. Today thousands use the trail as a way to get around the City in a sustainable way. Also, through partnerships with the County Freeholders Urban Agriculture community grants, GW has developed a network of nearly 200 community based gardens in non profits, public spaces, and Schools.

More recently Groundwork entered into a Community Partnership with the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Basking Ridge, N.J. Through this partnership we offer opportunities to our local youth to go to do work at a Wildlife Refuge, learn from the staff, and return to the City and Union County to put what they learn in open spaces to work in our congested community. We remove invasives, build boardwalks, build bird blinds, while learning how to impart our knowledge of these activities back home.

The more we open our eyes and our hearts to others, the more that we can accomplish together.

Groundwork Elizabeth has entered into a community



CAU Community Players

Proudly Presents

hairspray



Performances

Friday
June 28, 2019

Showtime
7:30 PM

Saturday
June 29, 2019

Showtime
7:30 PM

Sunday
June 30, 2019

Showtime
2:00 PM

Tickets

Order tickets online
www.eventbrite.com
Keyword: CAU

Location

Rahway HS Performing Arts Center
1012 Madison Ave
Rahway NJ 07065

The Union County

Fatherhood Initiative Coalition, Inc

Men Standing On The
Shoulders of Men

WWW.UCNFATHERHOOD.ORG



7th
Annual

UNION COUNTY FATHERHOOD

BREAKFAST CONFERENCE

HEALTHY FATHERS • HEALTHY FAMILIES
8 WAYS TO WELLNESS

Save
the
Date

Saturday, June 8, 2019 • 8:00am - 12:00pm

COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

80 W. Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ

SPONSORS



PROVIDING EDUCATION INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
TO FATHERS, RECOGNIZING THEIR VITAL ROLE IN THE
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THEIR FAMILIES.

UCFIC • PO BOX 505, Rahway, NJ 07065 • ucnjfatherhood@gmail.com



ANNUAL IRA GELLER WALK-A-THON

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

OAK RIDGE PARK,
CLARK, NJ

REGISTRATION: 11:00 AM

EVENT TIME: 12:00 PM—3:00 PM



GAMES, ACTIVITIES, & LIVE MUSIC
WALK AROUND THE PARK
FOOD & COMMUNITY



FREE REGISTRATION AT
CAU2019IRA-GELLER-WALK.EVENTBRITE.COM

SEEKING SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS & VENDORS!

CONTACT CARLY KRIAK FOR MORE
INFORMATION AT CKRIAK@CAUNJ.ORG

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT:



Sponsored by the Union County
Board of Chosen Freeholders

UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!



Ira Geller was a CAU member who tirelessly worked to raise funds for the annual walk-a-thon, always facing the adversity of fundraising with a positive approach. His devotion to fundraising and his commitment to people with special needs lives on through the Annual Ira Geller Walk-a-Thon.



Questions?

Carly Kriak at 908-354-3040 x4376 or ckriak@caunj.org



Community Home Care Solutions

From home repairs to personal care and more, our expert staff provide home-based assistance throughout New Jersey that can meet your individual need and lifestyle.

Services can be purchased via Medicaid or through private insurance.

This program trains and employs Certified Home Health Aids who deliver quality services that help you maintain independence.



COMMUNITY ACCESS
U N L I M I T E D

We provide help for your health and home that include the following services:

- Personal Care Assistance
- Errands & Transportation
- Meal Preparation & Dietary Information
- Light Housekeeping
- 24-hour on-call services with registered nurses
- Advisement from Certified Dementia Practitioners
- Home transition from hospital or nursing home
- Home & Property Maintenance
- Home Repairs, Chores & Improvements
- Snow & Leaf Removal
- Cleaning Clutter Removal
- Moving & Relocation Assistance

*Interested in becoming a Certified Home Health Aide?
Learn about how our program can launch your professional career!*

Contact us for a free consultation & assessment!
908-354-3040 | info@caunj.org | caunj.org





Office supplies shouldn't be a financial burden.

By partnering with a large, financially stable organization like Community Access Unlimited, you can leverage our buying power and put more money toward your mission.

CAU Wants to Reduce Your Office Supply Costs
Join our Office Supply Cooperative for Savings as **BIG** as Your Mission!

Staples is partnering with CAU so you can enjoy major discounts on orders of \$50 or more through a special online portal.

For just \$25, you can purchase an annual membership for savings of **60-80%** on office supplies and 40% on toner cartridges. *All you have to do is join!*

Customized pricing based on your organization's specialized supply needs is available.

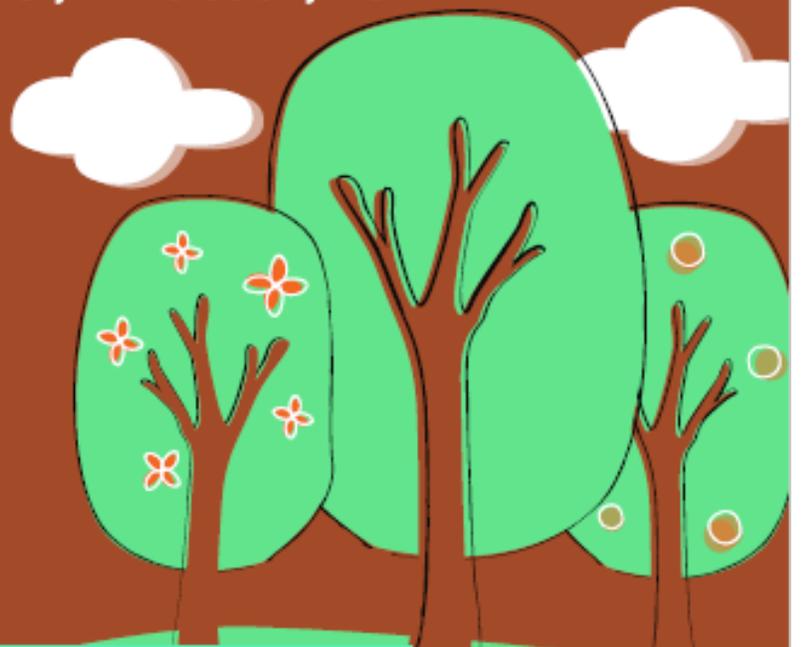
Your Staples representative is there to serve you. Membership is nontransferable and must be renewed annually and is open to any organization or business.

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**.

INTERFAITH YOUTH LUNCH AND PARK CLEANUP

Sponsored by the Union County
Interfaith Youth Council

Join us at 12:30 p.m., June 23rd
at the Muslim Community Center
of Union County
964-984 Magie Ave., Elizabeth, NJ



*We will clean up a nearby park after lunch and finish
by 2:30 p.m. Middle School through young adults are
welcome. Please r.s.v.p. to Pastor David at
dpjahnke@gmail.com or Ayaz Aslam at
ayazaslam786@yahoo.com*



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 for more information and current listings. openings. Community Access Unlimited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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.

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 information 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 residents 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.

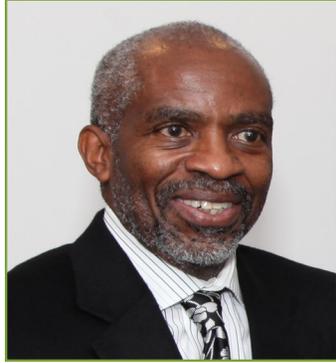
* Documents and interview are required to qualify.

Contact Gene Tavera X 4272.

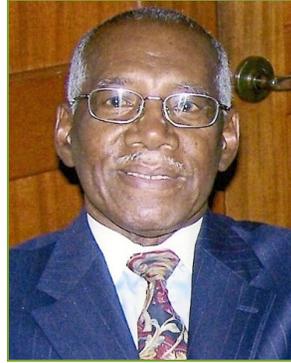
UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



*Sidney Blanchard,
Associate Executive Director
Community Relations
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
Community Organizer
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 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

www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil



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Elizabeth, NJ

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

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

June 6, 2019 at 10am
80 W. Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
See Right side

Know Your Neighbor
Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Time: 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Westfield Community Room
425 East Broad St., Westfield, NJ 07090

UCICC Steering Committee

July 3, 2019 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202

Praise and Worship
Date: TBD
Time: 6pm-8pm
Location: To Be Determined

UCICC Steering Committee

August 1, 2019 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202
See Right side

Union County Interfaith Camp
Date: August 14, 2018
Time: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
Location: Third Westminster Presbyterian Church
780 Salem Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07208



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