

Morris County
Advisory Committee on Women



Annual Report 2010

Report to the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders

MORRIS COUNTY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN
MEMBERS

January - December 2010

Edith Frank, Chair
Morris Township

Pam Bennett-Santoro
Morris Township

Dianne Hartshorn, Vice Chair
Morristown

Virginia Lyttle
Morris Plains

Elaine Muller, Secretary
Denville

Patricia O'Dowd
Boonton Township

Michelle Roers
Morris Plains

Mariana Vergara
Dover

INTRODUCTION

The Morris County Advisory Committee on Women was created by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 2004. The Committee falls under the responsibility of the Morris County Department of Human Services, which acts as the liaison to County Administration and the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Committee is an associate member of The National Association of Commissions for Women. The purpose of the Committee is to serve as a fact-finding resource and make recommendations for solutions to address the needs of women and families who live and work in Morris County. This year, 2010, marks the sixth year of the committee's operations.

The Freeholders' Resolution calls for eleven women to be appointed to the committee from across Morris County. In 2010, eight women served on the committee. The Advisory Committee on Women's members include: Edith Frank (Chair), Pam Bennett-Santoro, Dianne Hartshorn, Virginia Lyttle, Elaine Muller, Pat O'Dowd-Donohue, Michelle Roers and Marianna Vergara.

The Committee holds its public meetings six times a year, and the sub-committees meet as required. This Annual Report highlights the activities and achievements of the Committee for 2010. During the past year, the Committee has worked to increase its visibility in the county and to establish a working relationship with other organizations throughout Morris County. The Committee has maintained contact with the NJ County and Municipal Commission on Women, as well as Commissions in neighboring counties.

In order to complete its projects, the Advisory Committee on Women works with other organizations in Morris County. Primary partners in 2010 included Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, United Way of Morris County and Women's Center at County College of Morris. During the summer of this year, the Committee worked with area Girl Scouts to collect school supplies for needy children. Furthermore, the Committee coordinated a symposium that took place in October that was hosted in cooperation with the United Way of Morris County and the Women's Center at the County College of Morris.

As we begin work in the 2011 calendar year, the Committee will build upon the projects of previous years, and looks forward to providing information to assist the women and families of Morris County.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

During the month of August 2010, the Women's Advisory Committee worked with the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey to collect school supplies for local families in need. The project committee was comprised of Pam Bennett-Santoro, Patricia O'Dowd and Edith Frank.

Several Girl Scout Troops from the Morris County area engaged in an effort to collect schools supplies for needy children in our area. The Girl Scouts Troops determined locations and the dates for collection of school supplies. Collection sites were established in various locations in the county such as supermarkets and office supply stores. Members of the Advisory Committee on Women accompanied the Girl Scouts at some of the locations.

The Back to School Supplies Drive collected more than 2,100 items that were valued at approximately \$4,200. The school supplies were donated to two local non-profit organizations (the Morristown Community Soup Kitchen and the Lake Drive School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children). The donations were delivered in time for the opening of the school year.

Girl Scout troops from all around Morris County, from Brownie to Senior Scouts troops, participated in this effort. Troops from Morristown, Denville, Rockaway and Succasunna were especially helpful. Staff members from the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey provided supervision and assistance to the girls.

The Advisory Committee extends special thanks and appreciation to Mary Jo Buchanan, Director of Morris County Department of Human Services for arranging use of a room at Morris View for the storage of the mountain of school supplies prior to their delivery to the recipient agencies. The Committee also appreciates the assistance of the Morris County Youth Center who provided two helpers and a van for delivering the school supplies.

On December 8, 2010, the Girl Scouts were invited to attend a meeting of the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders at which they were presented with certificates of appreciation in recognition for their work and generosity for children in need in Morris County.



BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

**Sponsored by the
Morris County
Freeholder's Advisory
Committee on Women
and the Girl Scouts**

**Collection Dates:
August 14th-31st, 2010**

**Drop off location: to be
arranged by the Girl
Scouts and the
Committee**

What we are collecting:

**Pencils
Pens
Crayons
Notebooks
Colored pencils
Construction paper
Other new school
supplies**



We are pleased to invite all Girl Scout Troops to join us in collecting school supplies to benefit the Community Soup Kitchen in Morristown and the Lake Drive School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Mountain Lakes.

These much needed supplies will enable all children to have a fresh start to the new school year.

We are asking the Girl Scout troops to collect the Back to School supplies from August 14-31, 2010. Suggestions include: hosting a table in front of a grocery store, with scouts asking for donations as people enter to shop, or hosting a booth at a local parade/event. Of course, Girl Scouts are very creative in finding ways to help, and may have other ideas. A member of the Advisory Committee on Women is available to meet with your scouts to talk about this project, as well as answer questions about the Committee or the role of women in general.

For more information or to request a speaker:

Pam Bennett -Santoro
(973) 539-9255
JPMP010@aol.com

Patricia O'Dowd-Donohue
(973)769-0833
patricia_donohue_777@hotmail.com



Display signage and some of the items collected during the 2010 School Supply Drive.



Girl Scouts collecting school supplies for needy children.



Project Chairwoman Pam Bennett-Santoro with some of the collected items.

BRINGING A.L.I.C.E. OUT OF WONDERLAND

October 1, 2010

The Advisory Committee on Women proudly hosted an informational symposium entitled “Bringing A. L. I. C. E. Out of Wonderland !” The symposium was sponsored by the committee, in partnership with United Way of Morris County and the County College of Morris. The speakers at the event examined the impact of the economic recession on women and families of Morris County. The symposium was held on Friday, October 1, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Student Center at County College of Morris in Randolph, New Jersey.

The focus of the symposium was on the economic status of women in Morris County, the impact on their financial stability and resources that are available. Symposium participants heard from powerful sources including Janice Kovach - former Director of the NJ Division on Women, Virginia Lyttle – President of NJ Division of the American Association of University Women (AAUW-NJ), Stephanie Hoopes Halpin – Chairwoman of United Way of Morris County’s A.L.I.C.E. Task Force, Mary Jo Buchanan - Director of Morris County Human Services, and more. The project committee comprised of Elaine Muller, Michelle Roers, and Dianne Hartshorn.

This symposium was free to the Morris County community with a lunch that was generously provided by County College of Morris & United Way of Morris County.

Presentations included:

Janet Kovach - Director of the NJ Division on Women, the keynote speaker, provided a report on the “state of women’ in New Jersey and gave some legislative/policy updates.

Virginia Lyttle - President of NJ Division of the American Association of University Women and member of the Morris County Advisory Committee on Women presented findings of AAUW’s report, “The Gender Pay Gap in New Jersey” (2010). She highlighted dated that was relevant to Morris County Among the troubling facts were the following: for all New Jersey female

workers 16 and over the pay gap is 78%, placing New Jersey 18th in the nation in the Earnings Gap rank; for college educated women 25 and older the pay gap is 71%, ranking New Jersey 32nd in the nation.

Stephanie Hoopes-Halpin – Chairwoman of United Way of Morris County’s A.L.I.C.E. Task Force and former member of the Morris County Advisory Committee on Women provided an in-depth review of United Way of Morris County’s ALICE Report – a community report on the Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employed population. As part of United Way's mission to advance the common good of our communities, they created a task force to help better understand the families and individuals living and working in Morris County who are struggling to make ends meet. This population was brought to life as ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed. United Way's volunteer task force gathered data about ALICE so that we can explore the challenges preventing this population from attaining financial independence. This report shows that approximately 23% of working families in Morris County can be categorized as households that are financially struggling.

Heather Clarke-Peckerman - former member of the Advisory Committee, conducted an interactive dialogue with the symposium attendees during a working-lunch which resulted in observations and suggestions for ways of managing the challenges facing women and families in the present economy.

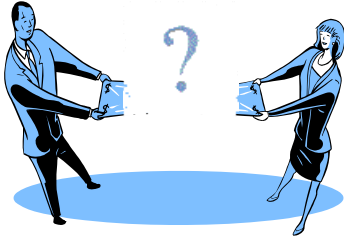
Mary Jo Buchanan - Director of Morris County Department of Human Services spoke on the history of women, their economic struggles and the public response in the history of Morris County. Women’s leadership and community support led to the establishment of public and private agencies such as United Way, Jersey Battered Women’s Service, Inc., as well as the County Department of Human Services, County Office of Temporary Assistance.

A total of 70 attendees participated. A great deal of networking was accomplished, and the event received good press coverage. Materials were provided that included:

- a summary of the speakers’ presentations
- strategies for salary negotiating
- articles on salary negotiations
- articles on the national impact of the recession on women.

Symposium attendees were asked to complete evaluations of the event. The results were overwhelmingly positive.

The Advisory Committee on Women appreciates the assistance of the County College of Morris Women's Center and United Way of Morris County for providing support and technical assistance for this program.



BRINGING A. L. I. C. E. OUT OF WONDERLAND !

Are you:

- Wondering how this down economy is impacting women in Morris County?
- Wondering if women still earn less than their male counterparts?
- Wondering how the economic status of women impacts our entire community?

If so, come help chip away at these issues by learning more about the current situation and the data that supports it from powerful sources including Janice Kovach – former Director of the NJ Division on Women, Mary Jo Buchanan - Director of Morris County Human Services, American Association of University Women, United Way's A.L.I.C.E. Task Force, and more. In doing so, together we can find ways to empower women to reach financial stability and beyond.



**October 1, 2010
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
County College of Morris
Student Center**

214 Center Grove Road, Randolph, NJ 07869

Lunch will generously be provided by
County College of Morris & United Way of Morris County

There is no fee for this symposium, however registration is required.
RSVP to Liz Kisatsky at: LKisatsky@co.morris.nj.us or by calling 973-285-6881



This symposium is proudly hosted by
Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders' Advisory Committee on Women

The Symposium Program Outline:

- | | |
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| Setting the Stage | 11:00 a.m. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- welcome by Freeholder Margaret Nordstrom- welcome by CCM President Ed Yaw- Keynote address by former Director of NJDOW
Janice Kovach | |
| The Situation | 11:30 a.m. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- AAUW report – Virginia Lyttle- ALICE – Stephanie Hoopes Halpin | |
| Lunch & Discussion | 12:30 p.m. |
| State of Morris County Women - Past Present and Future | 1:15 p.m. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Director of Morris County Human Services- Mary Jo Buchanan | |
| The Impact & Where Do We Go From Here | 1:45 p.m. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Panel of Presenters | |
| Closing | 2:15 p.m. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Michelle Roers -
Evaluation and next steps/call to action | |
| Resources & Networking | 2:30 p.m. |

2010 Symposium: Bringing A.L.I.C.E. Out of Wonderland



The symposium draws a full capacity crowd at County College of Morris.



Freeholder Nordstrom talks with reporter Mike Daigle on the Symposium's focus.



Keynote speakers Janice Kovach – Division on Women addresses the audience on “State of Women in New Jersey”.



Presenter Stephanie Hoopes-Halpin
Dr. Ed Yaw - CCM & symposium attendee.



Advisory Committee members Virginia Lyttle, Edith Frank, Pam Bennett-Santoro and Michelle Roers

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Since its inception, the Morris County Advisory Committee on Women has been building momentum.

Our first goal for 2011 is to identify new members to fill the committee to its capacity. With a full slate of members, the Committee will evaluate past activities and focus. With new recommendations and evaluation of such, the committee is setting its agenda for 2011.

Based on prior success, the Advisory Committee on Women has already initiated efforts to coordinate another school supply drive in partnership with local Girl Scout Troops. Furthermore, the Committee has the intention of hosting another symposium on a topic of relevance to women in this time.

Special Acknowledgement

The Morris County Advisory Committee on Women specially thanks the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders for giving us the opportunity and honor to serve the Morris County community in this capacity. We thank the Board of Chosen Freeholders for their ongoing support and their commitment to serving the women in our county.

Furthermore,. The Committee would like to acknowledge the special support and guidance given by Mary Jo Buchanan – Director of Human Services. Her support has been tremendous. Additionally, the Committee is most appreciate of the operational support provided by Liz Kisatsky of department of Human Services and Joe Garifo of the Office of Public Information.