

We are proud to share a few highlights from the past year!

NCJW/Essex had a year like none other in 2020-2021. The COVID-19 pandemic changed life as we knew it, and forced us to reimagine how to continue to provide services and programming to our community. Through it all, NCJW/Essex rose to the challenge as we always do, with staff and volunteers working remotely to further our mission of improving the lives of women, children, and families. Always looking for ways to turn our values into action, we have recently formed the Racial Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (REDI) Committee to increase education and awareness, and to become better racial justice advocates to end systemic racism and oppression.

The 2020 Back 2 School Store Served More Children Than Ever Before

The “mobile” store distributed **1,000+ backpacks** (filled with school supplies and more), **1,000+ personalized tote bags** (full of winter clothes, books, and more) and **700+ additional coats, clothes, accessories** and **1,550+ sneakers** for children in financial need in Essex County.

Volunteers - the Heart of NCJW/Essex

- **Mitzvah-in-a-Minute programs** included: **Holiday Gift Drive** providing 100 gifts for local families in need; **Martin Luther King Day food drive** for a Montclair food pantry; and **Pediatric Care packages** for young patients at Newark Beth Israel Hospital.
- **Kids Emergency Closets** provided students in 5 schools with essential clothing and supplies.
- **Spring Food Drive** collected 500+ pounds of food for a West Orange food pantry, helping 450 families.

Volunteers assisted more than 300 seniors and other eligible people to secure Covid vaccine appointments!

Advocacy

- Distributed **1,000 packets of NJ voter registration materials** and sent more than 1,000 GOTV postcards to low propensity voters.
- **Period Project** served more than 4,400 women and girls, distributing 130,000 menstrual products and holding **18 Time of the Month collections**.
- **A-List for Advocacy** ran three full-page ads in the *Star-Ledger*.
- **Virtual advocacy programming** addressed how to curb threats to the election process, support NJ racial justice efforts, stop the spread of conspiracy-based hate, reduce gun violence through a public health approach, and protect children online.

We advocated for crucial legislation like the Reproductive Freedom Act, voting reform, and anti-human trafficking awareness signage.

Zoom Virtual Programming

Amazing virtual programs included a museum tour of the **Notorious RBG exhibit**, cooking with **renowned chef Susie Fishbein**, and the new ongoing program, **Movies and More**.

Linda & Rudy Slucker NCJW/Essex Center for Women (CFW)

The CFW quickly adapted to become a virtual center, and clients looked to the CFW to anchor their week with different programs, including Empower Hour (grew 400%!), Job Clubs (increased over 200%!), Computer Classes, RISE workshops, and individual client appointments. LAW continued to provide much-needed legal assistance. Virtual services removed the burden of commuting to the CFW offices, leading to greater client participation and engagement.

Food insecurity has been a major issue for many CFW clients, and thanks to our generous donors, we have been able to distribute close to \$10,000 in food cards to our clients!

Teen Dating Abuse Awareness was not able to be in schools but participated in several virtual events and held a speaker series about the dangers of teen dating abuse.

Thank You for Your Support

Thanks to our very generous donors, our fund development efforts raised more than \$560,000, in addition to receiving ten grants totaling more than \$200,000. These gifts are **essential** to our continued programming and services.
Thank you!

We're Back in the Swing!

More than 100 golfers came out for a great day of golf at our **17th Annual Golf Invitational**, raising much needed funds to support vital community services.