



Written with and for individuals experiencing homelessness to break down the walls.

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Father and Son Reunite at Rescue Mission After 24 Years Apart

By Annette Espinoza & Jared Kofsky

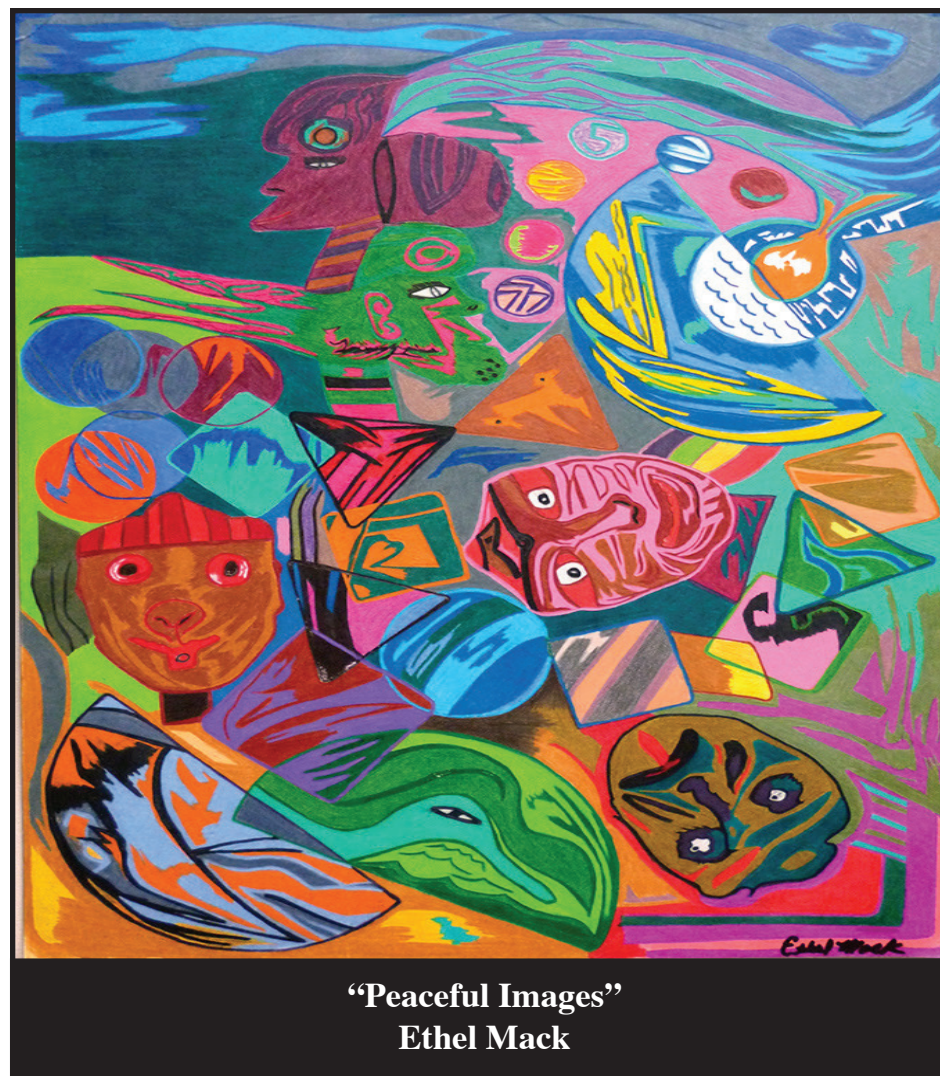
Between his first and second days working at the Rescue Mission of Trenton as part of his new job at the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen patron and lifelong Mercer County resident Morgan Wilson crossed paths with an individual that shared a unique connection to him.

Wilson remembers the echo of this young man's name that drew him out to the lobby that day in September 2015. There, in the entrance where many young men like him walk in and out for the services at the Rescue Mission, was someone named Morgan too.

"I'm sitting down and I'm looking at him like a baby," Wilson recollected in an exclusive interview with *The Wall*.

"I said 'your name's Morgan? My name's Morgan too,'" before stepping outside to continue conversing with the other man.

As he soon realized, that day, after searching for him for over two decades, the young man who Morgan had run into was none other than Morgan West Jackson, his long lost first son.



"Peaceful Images"
Ethel Mack

As Jackson spoke about how he was adopted at a young age, and never knew his father, Wilson became increasingly confident.

"I listened to his story that day

and I realized that this was my son," he explained.

Twenty-four years filled with trepidation and loss had separated Wilson from Jackson.

"I didn't want to be absent, I didn't want to be like my father," Wilson told *The Wall*.

However, in the early 1990s, Wilson's struggles with drug use and subsequent periods of incarceration ended up dividing him from his child, but he always knew that Jackson was out there somewhere. As Wilson moved into transitional housing, a need grew within him to reclaim his family and reunite with his missing child.

In his mind, Wilson was haunted by an image of his deathbed and his wondering of who would carry his casket. Who would attend his funeral? And what would be said about him? This rang a need to leave a legacy; a legacy of positivity and hope, and a legacy for his sons to carry on.

Now, Wilson, who has a four-year-old son as well, describes himself as a man with so much more at stake and so much more to live for. That he is proud of his story and his efforts to be a better, more positive person for the people that depend on him.

Wilson and Jackson were inseparable after their encounter. Although the feeling of being called 'dad' by a 24-year-old man was taboo to

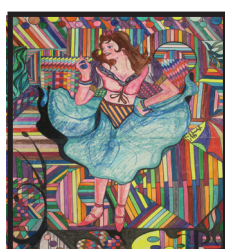
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Demond Williams contributes to TCAT from Georgia.

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Wilson, it introduced him to a love like no other—a love that stemmed from an understanding and forgiveness from Jackson.

“He is a good kid,” Wilson remarked, “better than me when I was his age.”

The more that Wilson spoke with his son, the more he learned about the son’s life over the previous 24 years. Jackson had been adopted by a suburban Philadelphia family as a young child. He later lived in both New York and New Jersey, before recently returning to the Keystone State, settling in Scranton and finding a new job as a hotel dishwasher.

“Working hard is in the bloodline,” according to Wilson, “I am so proud of him for never giving up.”

Although Scranton lacks direct public transportation to Trenton, and visits between Wilson and Jackson are rare, both speak frequently, especially since Jackson’s adoptive mother, Frances, passed away in 2014.

“He is very protective of me,” said Wilson. “I am the only person he has left.”

Wilson describes how his son “got me in the loop” by signing him up Facebook, and speaks fondly of Jackson coming to the capital city recently to sleep over, share drinks and stories, and discover additional commonalities between the two of them. As it turned out, both Wilson and Jackson had overcome a variety of obstacles in their lives, developed an interest in boxing, and shared a sense of ambition to be better men.

“When he heard about all of the things I had overcome, he said ‘Dad, you’re the greatest,’” Wilson recalled.

Although in the two years since their first reunion, Wilson continues to miss Jackson, he is not the only one to. Wilson’s four-year old son asks for his brother consistently, as do his sisters, his cousins, and his grandmother, who were equally excited about regaining a family

member when Wilson shared the news with them back in 2015. His two sons, despite being from different marriages and having a 22 year age gap between them, play together and are mentors to each other. He hopes that his sons will continue to strive for positive and healthy relationships, and that they will remain family oriented and protective of one another.

Wilson’s case manager at Oaks Integrated Care since 2014, Rose Bernard, remembers the text message she received from Wilson that fall day two years ago. He wrote that something “unbelievable” had occurred to him and that she had to meet with him immediately. They met outside of Trenton City Hall that day and Wilson explained the heartwarming news.

“I’m supposed to help him, but I think he’s helped me more,” said Bernard, describing Wilson’s story as one of inspiration.

“Although you go through some hellish situations sometimes, there’s always light at the end of the tunnel,” says Wilson. “You’ve just gotta’ keep pushing.”

So what does the future hold for Wilson and all of his relatives?

After putting himself together again “like a puzzle,” Wilson is enjoying the joys of life with his sons and his entire family by his side. In fact, Wilson is ready to grow the family and hopes to be a grandfather. For now, though, Wilson looks forward each year to March when both of his sons celebrate their birthdays and Jackson comes back to his birthplace, Trenton.

“The bond that we have is incredible,” said Wilson. “I just wish he wasn’t so far away.” 🏠

Rescue Mission of Trenton

98 Carroll Street
Trenton, NJ 08609

Phone: (609) 695-1436

www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org



“Country”
John Jacobs

The Soup Kitchen

Lillian Dougherty

Poetry

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen,
an inspiring place to be.

It’s full of surprises and there is so much to see.
You’ll meet all kinds of people without any strife.
Who come in and out from all walks of life.

Some of them homeless, lonely, and abused.
Some of them addicts whose minds are confused.

Some are still struggling.
Some find their way.

But they all have been blessed to be here today.
Some just eat lunch and some share their stories,
from a world full of violence they let go of their worries.

The people who work there will put a smile on your face.
They give a positive influence that affects the whole human race.

So if you would like to meet our family, we invite you to come.
What we do is for many not just for some.

Missing Love

Alice Evans

Poetry

There is quiet in my life only your whispers bring.
I listen in silence to the music your heart sings.
I rest upon your loving thoughts, enjoying this peace of mind,
inside that peaceful tenderness only with you I'd find.

There are no hidden feelings, everything is very clear.
We ride the truth together, there is no hurry and no fear.
Just living in the moment for whatever it may bring.
No thoughts of any other thing.
This moment is where I live.

You have another life.
Another true reality.
We both accept that is how it is.
It is the same for me.
But when I need that quiet space to let my feelings roam,
the whispers of your loving heart are there to take me home.



“Two Face”
Nour Galil

Hightstown Organization Celebrates 50 Years of Service

By Kristen Frohlich

In 1967, a small group of community stakeholders opened the doors to the organization, Community Action Service Center, Inc. (CASC) in an ongoing effort to fight poverty. Transportation services, however, posed a challenge to many of CASC's clients, therefore turning their work into that of a lifeline and essential service agency.

After 40 years of work across four locations in Mercer County, the name CASC was changed to Rise, A Community Service Partnership in 2008. Today, Rise is a private, non-profit organization that serves residents in Hightstown, East Windsor, and the surrounding community.

Recently, the organization celebrated the success of their 50 years of service to the local community. One of their greatest successes would be the Rise Food Pantry, which supplies non-perishable groceries to families every month.

The Pantry was formed in 2010 to supply 200 qualified families with groceries but quickly expanded to serve over 325 qualified families in 2015. In order to be qualified, one must meet the federal poverty guidelines. Open for three nights during the week, the Rise Food Pantry has proven to be beneficial to all families in the surrounding area.

Although their Food Pantry has shown success over the year, the organization's Adopt-A-Child or Family Program is expanding. The Holiday Gift Program involves a sponsor “adopting” a local child or family for the holidays and providing the child or family a gift that they registered for. According to Executive Di-

rector Leslie Koppel, the Holiday Gift Program has tripled from 300 to 1,000 kids over the past several years.

“Rise has a really strong program in place to fulfill the basic needs of those we serve, but our future goals involve trying to go more in-depth with each of these efforts,” Koppel said. More specifically, Rise has plans to expand their Rise to College Readiness program, an initiative that helps local students obtain the supplies that they need before college.

Rise also wants to increase the impact of their yearly Community Dinner, a dining event held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving during which local restaurants donate food. For the cost of one dollar, the Community Dinner has served over 200 people every Thanksgiving since its beginnings in 2010.

Koppel and her team are looking forward to this work: “Rise is looking forward to creating new relationships in the local community. Our 50th anniversary is an opportunity to expand and to reflect upon all of the work we have already done and plan to do. We appreciate all of the passionate donors and volunteers that have gotten us here.”

Rise, A Community Service Partnership

116 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ

Food Pantry

225 Franklin Street,
Hightstown, NJ

Greater Goods Thrift Store

114 Rogers Avenue,
Hightstown, NJ

When the Soup Kitchen Closes, Mobile Canteen Fills the Void

By Annette Espinoza, Jared Kofsky & Engy Shaaban

While a number of innovative organizations and programs are working to provide food services to individuals experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, one newly implemented effort stands out: The Salvation Army’s Mobile Canteen.

The initiative first began in October 2015 through the combined efforts of the then Corps Officers of the Trenton Citadel Corps, Captains Moises and Jackie Rivera as well as Salvation Army employees, Shanique Taliaferro and David Simmons and two dedicated volunteer chefs, Chris and Nico Cappuccino.

Today, the initiative is comprised of a service unit truck that travels around Trenton on Friday nights to deliver a warm meal to residents. The canteen serves hot, nutritious meals and gives access to information regarding social services/programs offered by the Corps on a consistent, weekly basis. When available, it also provides residents with personal items such as grooming kits, books, and socks and

hats in the winter. It serves approximately 150 Trenton residents every Friday.

Over the past several months, the service has become a vital resource for individuals experiencing food and home insecurity in Trenton. The initiative was first started in response to a need in the Mercer and Trenton communities: the most prominent soup kitchen in Trenton is closed on Friday nights, leaving a number of city residents without access to their final meal of the day.

The Mobile Canteen works to meet this need, “It is a great way to supplement the efforts of the other hard-working non-profit organizations in the area. It is also a great way to do community outreach, identify needs, and to try to implement a plan to help an individual or family,” said Danielle Focarile, the Special Events and Communication Manager of The Salvation Army of Mercer, Hunterdon and Somerset Counties (West Central Region).

The Wall recently accompanied the Mobile Canteen as it travelled through the capital city on a frigid Friday evening. Every time the vehicle,

covered with The Salvation Army’s logo, pulled up to one of its four stops, crowds of Trentonians, including children and senior citizens, approached, hoping for a warm meal.

At each of the locations, which included Walnut Avenue, Carroll Street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and the corner of Oakland Street and Hoffman Avenue, a variety of items were distributed, from cheeseburgers to copies of *The Wall*.

After each stop, the group linked arms with community members who stopped by, said a prayer together, and moved on to the next neighborhood.

In a short period of time, the project has made a significant impact in the Trenton community. For those working the canteen, they are not only serving food, they are also engaging and building relationships with neighbors and community members. “The initiative has impacted the Trenton community by showing them we care. We are accomplishing our mission of ‘doing the most good’ in these neighborhoods. A child running up to our canteen each week happy, excited knowing that they are going to have

a good meal that night makes the initiative impactful to us and those we serve.” said Taliaferro.

After many months of successfully serving Trenton residents, the team is looking to expand its impact in the community. “Our current goals are to identify those who are in need and to try to help them the best we can. While providing a nice meal once a week is a good start, it is our long-term goal to provide the tools and opportunities for those who are reliant on us to become independent and contributing members of society,” said current Corps Officer Major Elijah Kahn. 🏠

The Salvation Army’s Trenton Citadel Corps

To learn more about the Mobile Canteen and volunteering for The Salvation Army, contact Shanique Taliaferro: shanique.taliaferro@usa.salvationarmy.org (609) 599-9373 x114

To see photos from *The Wall*’s ride on the Mobile Canteen, visit thewall.pages.tcnj.edu.



“Panama Love”
John Hayes

Loved Ones

Carla Coleman

Poetry

Life has many turns and bumps in the road.
Be honest and caring and you’ll bear the load.
You can always rely on the ones you love most.

Cuz’ the ones who don’t care will disappear like a ghost.
So keep yourself focused and you’ll find a way to succeed.

Surrounded by good people and the loved ones you need,
they love you unconditionally in your time of despair.

Because when they’re down and out,
they’re going to need you to care.
So cherish your loved ones right down to the minute.

Do your best with your life,
and be grateful they’re in it.

Coming Soon to S. Clinton Avenue: Permanent Housing for Women

By Jared Kofsky

For the last several years, the historic house at 300 South Clinton Avenue at the edge of Trenton's Chambersburg neighborhood has been an eyesore in the community.

The three-story property has stood on the corner of Tyler Street in the North Ward for well over a century, according to NJ Parcels data; but those who walk by the building today will often see the first floor windows boarded up and covered with weeds and garbage scattered across the front sidewalk. Even the front door is no longer visible.

This house was once occupied by Dr. Arthur M. Barrows, according to an early 20th century medical directory, a 1920 Trenton City Directory, as well as local students and professors. It was later home to the Lifeline Emergency Center, but the home has continued to sit vacant over the years. However, *The Wall* has learned that the days of 300 South Clinton Avenue remaining in its current state are numbered.

In September 2016, with assistance from Mercer County, the City of Trenton sold this property for \$1 to the 112-year-old Rescue Mission of Trenton in an effort to increase housing for individuals experiencing homelessness in the capital region. Now, the Rescue Mission's plans for this five-bedroom 4.5 bathroom house have been revealed.

According to Barrett Young, the Rescue Mission's Chief Operating Officer, the house is slated to be rehabilitated and converted into a shared living space once again with one bedroom for each of the five residents. The one-bedroom units will be reserved for women who are currently experiencing homelessness in Mercer County.

"There is a great need for permanent supportive housing in the Mercer area," Young stated, adding that he thinks that this project "will



Untitled
John Jacobs

provide a sense of hope and permanency for the women who will be living there."

Bids for general contractors for the project were accepted in September, according to a legal notice, and Young told *The Wall* that construction was expected to begin in November or December. The rehabilitation process is expected to last between eight and nine months.

The house is located in a very walkable community, and is situated within a few blocks of Arm in Arm's new location on Hudson Street, the

Trenton Transit Center, the Roebbling Market Food Bazaar, and New Jersey Transit buses. Although the property is several blocks away from the Rescue Mission's main emergency shelter on Carroll Street, residents will still have access to services and resources like mental health or substance abuse treatment from the organization or its community partners, which will be provided on a case-by-case basis.

Young said that "this is a pilot project," explaining that "the Rescue Mission has done some permanent

supportive housing for single adult men before, but this is our first in the arena of permanent supportive housing for women."

Although he acknowledged that due to the small size of this building, there are not a lot of units inside, Young pointed out how this rehabilitation project will have a significant impact on the lives of the selected five Trentonians who no longer are forced to sleep on the streets of the city or in the shelter.

He hopes that this will lead to larger projects of this type in Trenton. "It shows that the Rescue Mission is committed to servicing the homeless residents in the Mercer area," said Young.

According to the Rescue Mission's Director of Administration Regan Mumolie, funding is being provided by Mercer County Department of Human Services Homelessness Trust Fund, the City of Trenton, and the Rescue Mission.

Women experiencing homelessness must fill out an application if they are interested in residing at 300 South Clinton Avenue once the rehabilitation project is completed.

Even though there is still significant work that must be completed before the first residents can move in, those who are interested in learning more about the application process can reach out to the Rescue Mission's Manager of Permanent Housing and Supportive Services, Sheila Scott in person or over the phone.

Should an applicant be accepted, "they can stay forever," according to Young. 🏠

Rescue Mission of Trenton
98 Carroll Street,
Trenton, NJ

Sheila Scott
(609) 695-1436 x208
Sheila.Scott@rmtrenton.org

Where You Can Turn For Help

All days and times are subject to change without notice. Call before visiting. Updated December 2017.
Check thewall.pages.tcnj.edu for more listings and map.
* = Not located in Mercer County

Trenton & Mercer County Homeless Shelters

Amani House

518-520 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Trenton, NJ.
Transitional housing (24 single adult males between the ages of 18-65). Call for appointment. Tel. (609)-393-3168 ext. 13.

Anchor House, Inc.

482 Center St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 396-8329
24-hour program for runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth ages 10-17
Anchor House Shelter, school Outreach Program, (609) 396-8329
Anchorage Transitional Living Program, (609) 989-1625
Anchor Link Street Outreach Program, (609) 218-5630
Anchor Line, (609) 218-5630

Better Community Housing Trenton – Doorway to Hope

827 East State St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 396-5579
Emergency shelter for homeless families in an apartment setting for up to 90 days.

Escher Street SRO & Transitional Housing

50 Escher St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-4599
Single Occupancy Rooms for single men and women (Project Specific Section 8);
Transitional Housing for single men (26 beds) and women (8 beds). SRO accepts
transitional housing clients and walk-ins. Referred by Mercer County Board of

Social Services or New Jersey Department of Corrections.

HomeFront New Jersey Family Campus

101 Celia Way, Ewing, NJ. (609) 989-9417
Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Housing are available.

LifeTies

Triad House & Administrative Offices: 2205 Pennnington Rd., Ewing, NJ (609) 771-1600
Mary's Place/T.L.I.T.: 1901 North Olden Ave., Ewing, NJ. (609) 671-0040
Providing 24/7 shelter for homeless LGBTQ youth ages 12 to 21 at four houses in Mercer County

Rescue Mission of Trenton

98 Carroll St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 695-1436
Emergency Shelter: Overnight shelter, meals and clothing for single adults
Soup Kitchen: Every Sunday and 1st Saturday in 5-Saturday month
Addictions Treatment: Outpatient, Intensive Outpatient Program, Long-Term Residential, Halfway House
Housing: Transitional Housing; Rooming and Boarding House; Permanent Supportive Housing
Other Services: Adult education, job training, thrift store, courtesy store, and Day Center services for homeless patrons

United Progress Inc. (UPI) – Trenton Treatment Center

56 Escher St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-2822 and Fax: (609) 392-3215
Providing 22-bed transitional housing service for single homeless males of Mercer County. Accepting transitional housing referrals from Mercer County Board of Social Services.

Womanspace

1530 Brunswick Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ. (609) 394-9000
Emergency services designed to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault immediately following the initial crisis. 24-hour hotlines (1-800-572-SAFE) and Spanish-speaking staff available. Short-term emergency housing in a confidential location for victims of domestic violence.

Food Banks & Meal Services

Abundant Life Christian Fellowship Food Pantry

1440 Pennington Rd., Ewing, NJ. (609) 883-9780

Arm in Arm

123 East Hanover St., Trenton, NJ. Open Monday – Thursday 9:30 am – 12 pm
48 Hudson St., Trenton, NJ. Open Monday – Thursday 9:30 am – 12 pm
61 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ. Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1:30 pm – 4pm and Tuesday 1:30 pm – 7 pm.
(609) 396-9355. Food pantry, emergency financial assistance (rent, utilities, security deposit, mortgage) for low income families and individuals in Mercer County. Pantry visits require photo ID and proof of Mercer County address.

Bethel Seventh Day Adventist Church

203 Hillcrest Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-2224
Open third Sunday of the month 8 am – 12 pm

Bethel World Outreach Ministries International

931 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Trenton, NJ. (609) 956-9228.
Community dinner Wednesday nights 5 pm - 6:30 pm

Cadwalader Asbury United Methodist Church Food Pantry

900 Stuyvesant Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-1037

Catholic Charities Community Food Pantry

132 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ (609) 394-8847 ext. 2504
Open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9 am – 12:30 pm

Celestial Church of Christ Food Pantry

46 Weber Ave., Ewing, NJ. (609) 771-9227

Christ Presbyterian Church (Ginny's Pantry)

726 Klockner Rd., Hamilton, NJ. (609) 587-0751

Concerned Citizens of Ewing Inc. Food Pantry

320 Hollowbrook Dr., Ewing, NJ. (609) 882-0856
Open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Divine Mercy Parish, St. Stanislaus Church

60 Randall Ave, Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-4826. Thursday dinner, 4:30 pm – 6 pm

First Baptist Church of Princeton

John Street & Paul Robeson Pl., Princeton, NJ. (609) 924-0877. Dinner Tuesday from 5 pm – 7 pm.

First Haitian Church of God Food Pantry

1501 Greenwood Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 695-3708

First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown

320 North Main St., Hightstown, NJ. (609) 448-0055
Rise to the TASK Community Supper on Mondays from 4 pm – 5:30 pm

First United Methodist Church of Hightstown

187 Stockton St., Hightstown, NJ. (609) 448-0041. Rise to the TASK Community Supper on Thursdays from 4:30 pm – 6 pm.

Hamilton Township's Bromley Neighborhood Civic Center

1801 East State St, Hamilton, NJ. (609) 587-8100. Open Tuesdays from 9:30 am- 11:30 am and Thursdays from 3 pm – 4 pm.

Hamilton Township's J. O. Wilson Neighborhood Center

169 Wilfred Ave, Hamilton, NJ. (609) 393-6480. Open Mondays from 10 am – 12 pm, Wednesdays 1 pm – 3 pm.

Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church

1040 Yardville Allentown Rd., Yardville, NJ. (609) 208-0228. Dinner Tuesday, 5 pm – 6:30 pm

HomeFront Pantry

1880 Princeton Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ. (609) 989-9417. Open Tuesdays 12 pm – 8pm, Mondays and Thursdays 9 am – 5 pm.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church Food Pantry*

201 North Pennsylvania Ave., Morrisville, PA (215) 295-3045

Jerusalem Baptist Church

150 N. Clinton Ave., Trenton, NJ (609) 394-9816. Third Saturday of a five Saturday month and the first Saturday of a four Saturday month. 11:30 am – 1 pm. Call for details on other services.

Lawrence Community Center

295 Eggerts Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ. (609) 883-3379
HomeFront-managed food pantry provides food bags on the first and third Thursday of the month. Various programs for all ages and computer access for visitors.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Food Pantry

189 South Broad St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 396-2411
Last Thursday of month. Opens at 8 am on a first come first serve basis.

Meals on Wheels of Mercer County

320 Hollowbrook Dr., Ewing, NJ. (609) 695-3483
Provides nutritious meals to homebound individuals throughout Mercer County.

Medallion Care Behavioral Health

1 Electronics Dr., Suite 105, Hamilton, NJ. (609) 586-0766. Lunch Monday - Friday from 12 pm – 1 pm

Mercer Street Friends

824 Silvia St., Ewing, NJ. General inquiries (609) 396-1506. Food Bank inquiries (609) 406-0503

Mount Carmel Guild

73 North Clinton Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-3402. Operates a food pantry Mon-Fri. 9:30 am – 11:30 am and 1:30 am – 3:30 pm

New Covenant United Methodist Church

1965 South Broad St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-4725

New Hope Church of God

400 Hamilton Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-3293

NJ Conference Adventist Community Services Center

2160 Brunswick Cir., Lawrenceville, NJ. (609) 392-7131

Primera Iglesia Pentecostal (Alpha and Omega Inc.)

347 Second St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 571-9135. 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Princeton Deliverance Center

301 Southard St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-9161. Wednesday (not 1st of month) 12:30 am – 1:30 pm, Friday 9 am – 12 pm

Princeton United Methodist Church

7 Vandeventer Ave., Princeton, NJ. (609) 924-2613. Free community dinner, Wednesdays 5 pm – 6:30 pm

Rescue Mission of Trenton

98 Carroll St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 396-2183. 1st Saturday of a 5-Saturday month and every Sunday. 11 am – 12 pm
Resurrection Lutheran Church Food Pantry
4315 Nottingham Way, Hamilton, NJ. (609) 586-3355

Rise Food Pantry

225 Franklin St., Hightstown, NJ. (609) 443-4464.
Open for limited food distribution on Monday through Wednesday from 9 am – 12 pm Please call the office for requirements and information.

Sacred Heart Church

343 S. Broad St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-2801. Soup Kitchen: 4th Sunday Lunch from 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm. Food Pantry: 3rd Tuesday of the month. 2 pm – 6 pm

Samaritan Baptist Church

531 Dr. ML King Blvd., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-0016. Saturday 9 am – 11:30 am

South Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

First Baptist Church, 128-140 Centre St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-8810. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Dinner from 4 pm – 5:30 pm.

St. James AME Church

413 Summit St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 448-7855
Community dinner, Wednesdays 5 pm - 6:30 pm

St. Mary's Cathedral (Loaves and Fishes Food & Soup Kitchen)

151 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 396-8447. Last two Saturdays of the month. Lunch is 11 am – 2 pm

The Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church *

771 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Morrisville, PA (215) 295-4191

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Food Pantry

801 W. State St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-3805. Food Pantry. Every other Saturday 9 am – 11 am. Services via the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen are also available.

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

72 Escher St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 695-5456. Mon. – Fri. Lunch from 11 am – 1 pm; Monday – Thursday Dinner from 4pm-5:30pm. Call for other services.

Turning Point United Methodist Church

15 S. Broad St., Trenton, NJ. Dinner served / Food Pantry. 3rd Sun. 1 pm – 3 pm.

United Progress, Inc.

62 West State St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-2161. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am – 12 pm.

West Trenton Soup Kitchen

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. 801 W. State St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 902-042. Thursday Dinner, 5 pm – 6:30 pm

Health Services

Catholic Charities, Behavioral Health Services
10 Southard St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 396-4557.
Integrated behavioral health and physical health services.

Capital Health Medical System at Hopewell
1 Capital Way, Hopewell Township, NJ. (800) 637-2374.
Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care.

Capital Health Regional Medical Center
750 Brunswick Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 396-6722
Mental Health Crisis Assistance. Accepts Medicaid, Medicare

Carrier Clinic*
252 County Route 601, Belle Mead, NJ. 1-800-933-3579
Access Center (24/7), Specializing in psychiatric and substance abuse treatment.
Accepts Medicaid (mental services only) and Medicare.

Family Guidance Center – Outpatient Care
Behavioral Healthcare Services and Primary Health Care:
2210 Hamilton Ave., Hamilton, NJ. (609) 587-7044
Substance Abuse Recovery Programs / Family Preservation & Recovery Programs:
946 Edgewood Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-1626

Consumer Credit / Counseling Service:
1931 Nottingham Way, Hamilton, NJ. (609) 586-2574

Children’s Day School / Children’s Day Treatment Program:
1925 Pennington Rd., Ewing, NJ. (609) 882-2288

Services include: outpatient mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, family preservation services, a school for children with emotional difficulties, housing counseling, financial counseling and education.

Henry J. Austin Health Center (Main)
321 North Warren St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 278-5900
Offers fast track, pediatrics, adult medicine, OB/GYN care, social services, podiatry, eye care, behavioral health care, dental services, HIV and Hepatitis C testing and treatment. Have ID. Accepts Medicaid, Medicare. Monday through Friday 8 am – 5 pm and Saturday 9 – 1.

A Better Way
65 Prospect St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-1224
Specializes in mentoring, re-entry & gang reduction.

Arm in Arm
123 East Hanover St., Trenton, NJ
48 Hudson St., Trenton, NJ
61 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ
(609) 396-9355
Food pantries; emergency financial assistance (rent, utilities, security deposit, mortgage); workforce development, and driver’s license restoration assistance.

Catholic Charities – Emergency & Community Services
132 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 394-8847.
Provides support related to housing, food and mental health.

CEAS (Coordinated Entry and Assessment Services) Center
509 Perry St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 989-3722
Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Operated by the City of Trenton, this center strives to provide services like housing, identification, and information about benefits eligibility.

Central Jersey Legal Services, Inc.,
198 West State St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 695-6249.
Will discuss legal issues with individuals, landlord/tenant or issues and will make appointments. Call for appointment (9 am – 4:30 pm).

Child Care Connection
1001 Spruce St., Suite 201, Ewing, NJ. (609) 989-7770.
Resource and Referral agency assists families in their search for quality child care and provides access to child care subsidy funds. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am – 5 pm., Thursday 9 am – 6 pm

City of Trenton – Health & Human Services
319 E. State St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 815-2160
Can provide emergency assistance for back rent, first month rent for the homeless and/or at-risk homeless, assistance for Senior Citizens, and other services from its City Hall office.

Community Health Law Project
225 East State St., Suite 5, Trenton NJ (609) 392-5553.
Discusses legal questions with those with disabilities. Offers a low-cost fee-for-service legal service program. Will make appointments.

Community Justice Center
310 West State St., Trenton, NJ (609) 218-5120.
Encouraging the empowerment, resiliency and rights of those struggling with disabilities by providing the essential ingredients of legal education, outreach, advocacy and representation. Will discuss legal questions with veterans and disabled and will make appointments.

Community Options, Inc
16 Farber Rd., Princeton, NJ (609) 951-9000
Provides housing and employment services for individuals with disabilities.

Henry J. Austin Health Center (Chambers)
317 Chambers St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 278-5900.
Adult Medicine and other services. The satellite centers are open Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Appointments are encouraged.

Henry J. Austin Health Center (Ewing Street)
112 Ewing St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 278-5900.
Adult Medicine and the above services and dental care. Open Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Appointments are encouraged.

Mount Carmel Guild
73 North Clinton Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-5159. Limited Utility and Prescription assistance. Home Health Nursing Services: visits for medication management, vital sign checks, pre-filling syringes, administer injections for economically disadvantaged, medically frail elderly. Free and do not accept third party payments.

New Horizons Treatment Service, Inc.
132 Perry St., Trenton, NJ. Appointment: (609) 394-8988.
Provides an array of medical, clinical and special services, i.e. substance Abuse treatment, detoxification, methadone maintenance, methadone detoxification. Mon-Fri 6am-8pm. Accepts Medicaid, WorkFirst NJ, and self-pay.

Oaks Integrated Care
31 Lexington Ave., Ewing, NJ. 609-583-1900.
1001 Spruce St. Suite 205, Trenton, NJ. 609-396-6788
1320 New Willow St., Trenton, NJ. 609-396-8877
314 East State St., Trenton, NJ. 609-396-4258
2550 Brunswick Pk., Lawrenceville, NJ. 609-396-8877
Linkage to mental health services, medical services, entitlements and housing. Call for appointment.

Oxford House
1065 River Rd., Ewing, NJ. (301) 587-2916, Toll Free: (800) 689-6411
Halfway houses to transition from rehab to independent living for individuals

Princeton House Behavioral Health
741 Mount Lucas Rd., Princeton, NJ. (1-800) 242-2550; (609)- 497-3347 Intensive outpatient, partial hospitalization. Accepts Medicaid, Medicare.

Planned Parenthood
Trenton Center - 437 E. State St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 599-4881
Hamilton Center - 2279 State Hwy 33, Hamilton, NJ. 689-4964

Human Services

Family Guidance Center - Outpatient Care
Behavioral Healthcare Services and Primary Health Care:
2210 Hamilton Ave., Hamilton, NJ. (609) 587-7044
Substance Abuse Recovery Programs / Family Preservation & Recovery Programs:
946 Edgewood Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-1626
Consumer Credit / Counseling Service:
1931 Nottingham Way, Hamilton, NJ. (609) 586-2574

Children’s Day School / Children’s Day Treatment Program
1925 Pennington Rd., Ewing, NJ 08618. (609) 882-2288
Services include: outpatient mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, family preservation services, a school for children with emotional difficulties, housing counseling, financial counseling and education.

Helping Arms
50 Escher St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 396-7500
Provides counseling, employment placement services, housing and other social services to low income people, and operates a prison re-entry initiative in Trenton. Referrals from Dept. of Corrections.

HomeFront
Administrative Offices
1880 Princeton Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ. (609) 989-9417
Homelessness prevention (rent/security); permanent service-enriched affordable housing; food pantry; FreeStore; Furnish the Future. Monday – Friday 9am-5pm. Except Tuesday 12 pm – 8 pm

Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness
1001 Spruce St., Ewing Township, NJ. (609) 599-99762

Mercer County Board of Social Services (MCBOSS)
200 Woolverton St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 989-4320.
Complaint Line: (609) 989-4400. Social Services: (609) 989-4451. Assist individuals with General Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income and other services.
M-F, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, T 8:30 am – 8:30 pm. Can call or walk-in.

Mercer County Clerk’s Office
240 W. State St., Floors 6 and 7, Trenton, NJ. (609) 989-6494
ID’s- Voter registration forms, Mercer County photo ID, passport.
Monday – Friday 8 am – 4 pm; Wednesday until 6:45 pm. Walk-ins accepted.

Mercer County Connection
957 Route 33, Hamilton, NJ
County ID card and passport services. Mon, Wed, Fri. 10am – 6pm. Tuesday & Thursday, 10 am – 8 pm. Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm.
Walk-ins accepted.

Mercer County Department of Housing and Community Development
640 S. Broad St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 989-6858
Provides heating/cooling assistance, first-time homebuyer assistance, residential rehabilitation assistance, and affordable housing.
M-F 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Mercer County Department of Human Services
640 S. Broad St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 468-8296

2000 Pennington Rd., Eickhoff Hall, Ewing, NJ (609) 771-2110
Services: Abortion Services, Birth Control Services, Emergency Contraception, General Health Care, HIV Testing, LGBT Services, and more.
experiencing drug and alcohol addiction.

Rescue Mission of Trenton
96 Carroll St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 393-3533. Residential and Outpatient Treatment for addictions and co-occurring disorders.

Robert Wood Johnson Hospital at Hamilton
One Hamilton Health Pl., Hamilton, NJ. (609) 586-7900
Clinics, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care Accepts Medicaid, Medicare.

St. Francis Medical Center
601 Hamilton Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 599-5000
Clinics, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care. Accepts Medicaid, Medicare.

The Salvation Army’s Trenton Adult Rehabilitation Center
436 Mulberry St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 503-5124

Trenton Department of Health and Human Services - Clinical Services
218 N. Broad St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 989-3242
Health Promotions and Clinical Services; Health Incentive Program for Women (HIP4W), Children’s Health Services.

Trenton Treatment Center (Part of United Progress, Inc.)
56 Escher St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-2822
Trenton Treatment Center offers residential (for men only) and outpatient programs for those addicted to drug and alcohol. Accepts referrals from MCBOSS, client walk-ins, and referrals from other service provider agencies, and uninsured Mercer County residents.

University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro*
1 Plainsboro Rd., Plainsboro, NJ. (609) 853-7000
Clinics, General Acute Medical Care. Accepts Medicaid, Medicare.

United Progress Inc. (UPI)
162 W. State St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 392-2161.
Provides substance abuse treatment, HIV/AIDS counseling, employment and job development counseling, emergency food, utility, housing services and homeless prevention.

Mercer County Office on Aging
640 S. Broad St., Trenton, NJ
Information for Seniors (877) 222-3737, (609) 989-6661

Mercer County Office for the Disabled
640 S. Broad St., Trenton, NJ (609) 989-6663

Mercer County Veterans Residence
2280 Hamilton Ave., Hamilton NJ. (609) 989-6120. (Must apply in advance)

New Jersey Department of Labor One-Stop Career Center
26 Yard Ave., Trenton, NJ. (609) 989-6200.
Offers workforce readiness services and career resources. Referrals from MC-BOSS, unemployment. Walk-ins accepted. (Monday-Friday), 8:30 am – 5 pm, Tuesdays, 8:30 am – 8:30pm.

Opportunities for All
1701 S. Broad St., Hamilton, NJ. (609) 394-7013
Training and employment opportunities to a diverse group of job seekers. We specialize in working with applicants with disabilities.

Rise – A Community Service Partnership
Main Office, 116 N. Main St., 2nd Floor, Hightstown, NJ. (609) 443-4464.
Providing case management to individuals in the East Windsor/Hightstown area. Main office is open: Monday through Friday 9 am – 4 pm
(Closed for lunch from 1 pm – 2 pm daily)

Social Security Administration
635 S. Clinton Ave., 2nd Floor, Trenton, NJ. (609) 989-2254; 1-800-772-1213.
Assists clients with social security card replacement, Disability info, questions and assistance in applying for SSI and SSDI. Call or walk-in.

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
72 1/2 Escher St., Trenton, NJ. (609) 695-5456
Hot lunch and dinner; adult education; computer classes; job search assistance. Monday to Friday Lunch from 10:30 am – 12:50 pm; Monday to Thursday Dinner from 3:30 pm – 5 pm

Ujima Urban Women’s Center
1001 Pennington Rd., Ewing, NJ. (609) 882– 2098
Providing compassion, advocacy, and training to urban women residing in Trenton and surrounding areas. Call for Appointment.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Trenton Vet Center
934 Parkway Ave. Suite 201, Ewing, NJ. (609) 882-5744

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Hamilton Outpatient Clinic
3635 Quakerbridge Rd., Hamilton, NJ. (609) 570-6600
General Medicine for veterans.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Intervention Program
Hotline is intended to assist homeless Veterans and their families, VA Medical Centers, federal, state and local partners, community agencies, service providers and others in the community.
(1-877) 4AID VET (877-424-3838) (National)

Scott: Visits to Princeton Inspire HomeFront Artists

By Essence Scott

I was in the inaugural group of Triumphant Teens when the program first started over ten years ago in 2005. I knew very little about high school at the time; and I knew less about what to do when I graduated. The purpose of the program, originally implemented by HomeFront, is to give at-risk teens a vision of a life that includes college and mainstream employment and to prepare them for such opportunities.

I am the first in my family to graduate from high school—a fact that I am incredibly proud of. Had the Triumphant Teens program not been around, I feel that I would have dropped out of school at age seventeen, at the beginning of my senior year of high school.

My younger brother and sister were also Triumphant Teens. In the program, we prepared documents and applications for college, received help

with our homework, and participated in job-readiness workshops. It was in this program that I created one of my first résumés.

This invaluable learning experience, along with my first job at HomeFront's main office on Princeton Avenue and, later, at their Family Preservation Center (formerly at the Katzenbach School of the Deaf, now called HomeFront Family Campus on Celia Way in Ewing) and prepared me to work and socialize in a professional setting.

The program also helped prepare me for college. I am the first person in my family to attend college, and there was so much that I did not know at the time. In all honestly, I did not enjoy college as much as I probably should have because of my mental health; still, however, I am grateful for the experience and to the resources that I received that

made my attendance possible.

In addition to résumé building and other professional development skills, the program taught me the importance of hard work and true grit and the rewards that come of this. I also learned this from my parents, who have worked tirelessly to provide for my siblings and me.

I learned how to come to work on time, how to dress for an interview, what to say at an interview. While a computer literacy class my freshman year of high school jumpstarted this all, I still needed to learn about other things with individuals who shared my experiences growing up.

While the majority of the students in my freshman year computer literacy class could seek help with their résumés from their parents and would have no problem getting a job, I could not. Triumphant Teens provided me with this advantage and filled the void.

To my knowledge, the Triumphant Teens program no longer exists; and this saddens me. There is a critical need for such programs for adolescents growing up in particularly challenging circumstances. In addition to providing them with the support to move forward with their academics, the program disperses important information and practical life skills related to ethics in the workplace, résumé building, and SAT or ACT preparation, among others.

It provides teens with a safe, welcoming environment in which they can realize their goals and cultivate the educational, vocational, and relational skillsets that they need to achieve these. The Triumphant Teens program helped me tremendously in receiving the jobs that I have gotten over the years. Perhaps, more importantly, it has given me the confidence and motivation that to pursue these. 🏠



“Medusa”
John Jacobs

Breeze from South

Nour Galil

Poetry

Sing a little Southern girl.
For Love and Peace.
You are a golden bright star.
To the coming generation.
Tell them the story.
How it started. And how it's done.
To a beautiful end.

Singing. Singing. Singing.
It's a new morning.
After a long, star-less night.

Dancing. Dancing. Dancing.
To the rhythm.
All the tribes' rhythms.
And dialects.

Humming. Humming. Humming.
Your favorite hymns.
And play your sweet guitar.

Singing. Singing. Singing.
Today is a new day.



**“Living Life Golden”
Dolores Frails**

Poetry

How This

Paul Norris

How this love? With curse and fist.
How this love? The dummy list.
How this love? With broken bone.

How this love?
In menaced tone.

How this love? See blackened eye.
How this love? Alone to cry.
How this love? Afraid to sleep.

How this love?
This I weep.

How this love?
How this love?
How this?
How this?

Scott: What I Learned from Being a Triumphant Teen

By Essence Scott

Children experiencing homelessness do not always feel safe within themselves. When I was homeless, I experienced this uncomfortable reality. When I moved to Connecticut Avenue, I still felt like I was homeless; I had to readjust.

There was one place where I felt my absolute safest: the Arts Council of Princeton on Witherspoon Street. I went there with HomeFront on Thursday nights for art class.

A lot of the time, I was the oldest one there, but that did not matter to me. On Thursday nights, we worked with a number of different artistic mediums—painting, clay, and the performing arts, among others.

I have many fond memories of being swept into the world of A Christmas Carol at McCarter Theatre in Princeton. I loved the times when McCarter performers came to teach us a little something; it gave me

hope that we very well could be actors and actresses. It also helped me learn a great deal about the world and perceive it as one big stage—full of opportunity, rehearsals, reruns, and final performances.

Attending these art classes also helped me escape for a little bit. In school, I was exceptional, but introverted and I did not make friends easily. While I felt purposeful at school, I did not exactly fit in. When I was with HomeFront, I was still on edge because I was usually one of the oldest in the group—people of my age tended to be volunteers—but the opportunities that these art classes afforded me made it all worth it. I was learning to be present with myself and practicing new and constructive ways to express my feelings and thoughts.

The Thursday night art classes quickly became a staple—something that I could look forward to every week. I did not always like being at home, a small motel room with too

much stuff and not enough room; the art space soon became my respite from all this.

One night, I remember visiting a mural near the Arts Council with my class. I felt something stir in me when I looked at the mural; it inspired me to write one of my first poems. Much like the images on the mural, I felt safe, insulated by this world that someone else made. I knew that I could express this with my writing—something that I had found comfort and solace in for years—and so I began to write and I have not stopped since then.

The class at the Arts Council helped me to find myself. One time after a nighttime excursion with a person that I thought I trusted went horribly wrong, I felt lost and isolated. I could barely write anything, and I was so afraid of everything around me. At class that week, we were doing fairytale retellings. I wrote a Sleeping Beauty retelling that in-

volved Cinderella as her sister. I put a grim spin on the text and spilled my negative feelings and thoughts onto the page.

The experience of doing so was euphoric and I felt much better afterwards. I needed to confront the hurt and anger that I was feeling and had it not been for the particular focus of class that night, I may have succumbed to my mental torment. In this instance and many others, the art class provided me with a safe and productive outlet to challenge and cope with the hurdles in my life.

Right now, there is much that I want to pursue in life. I want to write, play sports, and be an actress. The art classes that I attended as a teen and a young adult gave me a safe haven to work through some of my most difficult experiences growing up; they taught me to take control of my thoughts and emotions in ways that make my dreams realistic and attainable today. 🍷

From Lead to Leaks: Problems Continue With Trenton's Water

By Annette Espinoza, Jared Kofsky
& Joshua Trifari

How is lead contamination impacting Trenton residents? Over a year after high levels of lead were found in the water of most of the capital's public schools, the answer to that question remains unclear.

In recent years, there have been widespread concerns across the United States with aging infrastructure, particularly in regards to lead levels in the water supply systems and paint in some of the nation's metropolitan areas. In 2014, over 100,000 residents of Flint, Michigan, a small city that like Trenton, was once a riverside industrial powerhouse, were discovered to have been exposed to excessive levels of lead.

"This is an issue that has been on people's radars for decades," Jane Rosenblatt, a program manager at Downtown Trenton-based New Jersey Future, told *The Wall* in the spring. However, as a result of the recent revelations, "people are starting to pay attention to some of the daily impacts of our antiquated water infrastructure, so we're likely to see something happening in the coming years as far as investments," she explained.

In the years that followed, New Jersey schools began to test their drinking water for high lead levels, and the results in some districts shocked many parents. In the state's largest city, dozens of schools were found to have elevated levels of lead, prompting Newark students to be forced to drink from bottled water.

A few weeks later, according to *The Trentonian*, Trenton Water Works General Superintendent Joseph McIntyre testified that "we don't have a lead issue" in Trenton, and that "we've never had a lead-based problem here in the water."

However, in October 2016, it was revealed that in 20 of Trenton's older school buildings, including Daylight/Twilight Alternative High School and Grant Elementary School, there were levels of lead in the water that were above the US Environmental Protection Agency's recommended guidelines.

The extent of the problem in New Jersey's cities today is quite unclear. Rosenblatt stated some cities contain water mains "that can date back to the Civil War," and that part of the reason why many recent discoveries of water contamination have been in cities is because "urban centers are where some of our oldest infrastructure is."

In response to these crises, several New Jersey organizations and agencies are calling for improvements.

Rosenblatt is one of the leaders of Jersey Water Works, a 300-member statewide organization dedicated to upgrading New Jersey's wastewater, drinking water, and stormwater infrastructure. Members range from local organizations like Isles to engineering firms, according to Rosenblatt, who stated that ultimate goal is "investing in cost-effective sustainable solutions that benefit the communities served by these systems."

Jersey Water Works has partnered with New Jersey Urban Mayors Association to develop policy recommendations as to how to best update water infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Environment New Jersey is also seeking similar improvements to prevent future crises. Doug O'Malley, the organization's director, stated that "obviously, most people can't shell out the thousands of dollars that you can use to replace it, but a lot of what we want to do is start up with testing to be able to expose the extent of the problem and then use long-term state funding to try to ultimately replace our pipes."

Continued on Page 12

I'm Excited

Pervis Upshur

Poetry

I'm excited because I have good people around me.
I'm excited because I'm doing things in my life
that I thought I could never do.

I'm excited cuz' I have people to help me with stuff that I don't know
how to pronounce, but I am earning how to pronounce.
I'm excited because the sun comes all the way out,
and the sky is bright.

I can come out of my house and eat ice cream and talk to my neighbor.
I'm excited because I'm starting to do things by myself,
without help.

And I'm excited because I'm helpful to elders.
They talk to me. They tell me things that I need to hear.

I'm excited cuz' I can go out and work,
and do somethin' to earn money when I need it.

I'm excited because I'm myself.
I'm excited because nobody can take that away from me.

And I'm excited just to be excited.
I'm excited because I have another chance to keep myself first.



"My Waxy House Plant"
Randy Harms

Strokes That Make it Pop with Local Artist Demond Williams

By Annette Espinoza

Our previous few editions have featured the vibrant and joyous work of Trenton native Demond Williams. Here is a look into the life of the man behind the brush.

"It all started with graffiti," Williams recalls. From the age of 12 to 18, the thrill of his one and only vice was defacing the walls of his own city. But before that, Williams remembers spending hours drawing as a child. It was a drawing of Mickey Mouse that assured him and his parents of an opportunity, a "way out" of the plights of a troubled city limiting black men like him.

It was Williams' artistic nature that paved a way for him: cultivating his skills to explore and express the world around him through color, even when it was at its grimmest. The artist's signature method of mixing surrealism with visually jazzy and bombastic tones is meant to convey fluidity and movement in his work. This and his many other artistic choices are all deliberate and are meant to take his audience by surprise—they push beyond the boundaries of the ordinary.

But before he was able to press his tools against a canvas, his first strokes of colors were on cardboard and then the streets of Trenton. "I don't know how to be bad, it's just not in me, but graffiti was my bad."

Before enjoying the modesty and safety of being behind a canvas, Williams remembers a time where art was not as simple. Knowing that his parents would be disappointed and the high risks of being arrested and ticketed associated with being caught vandalizing, young Williams was always cautious. Nevertheless, it was an exhilarating feeling for him.

Williams outgrew the adrenaline of the graffiti after a piece was interrupted by the bouncing blue and red lights on the wall of



"The Taste of Funk"
Demond Williams

a city street that he was working on. He remembers hiding against the floorboards that night. And although determined to finish his work, the lights were too daunting and he left the piece unfinished.

"It was time to take it to the next level so I began to work on painting cardboard boxes and then canvases," said Williams. He also worked to fine-tune his artistic abilities and pursued a bachelor's degree in commercial art. With increased knowledge of terminology, technicalities, and guidelines as to what "good art" was, Williams felt boxed in; after the death of his father, the young artist took a sabbatical to make art his own way. His biggest take away

from one particularly challenging and unusual assignment. The assignment was to paint a brown paper bag with every color he saw on the bag with the exception of brown. Williams knew exactly what his professor meant. Understanding colors through values of hot and cold, the colors he saw went well beyond just the earthy brown; he recognized deep blues and hot reds and saw into the texture of what the bags looked like when it was crumpled.

"It was a language I understood. It was unorthodox and I could relate to it," Williams said. Soon after this assignment, the artist crossed paths with the Trenton Community A-TEAM (TCAT). There, he shared

creative spaces with other aspiring artists including Walter Roberson and Susan Darley (among many others), who inspired and motivated one another.

Currently living in Georgia where he copes with Multiple Sclerosis, Williams looks back fondly at his time in Trenton, his youth, and his time with TCAT. Art to him is not just about the completed piece. In the process of creating his work, Williams can feel his heart racing and his head flooding with memories, emotions, and thoughts.

At times he expresses that these sensations can get overwhelming to the point where he is forced to walk away. And yet, to Williams, this is the beauty of art—in all its forms: "I love the moment when you see musicians hold a tune, that bliss, and satisfaction of holding and controlling this instrument that manipulates emotions and makes people feel sad or good. That's what music and art does."

While his style has certainly changed over the years, Williams will always return to his artistic roots: on a recent trip to a gallery with his wife and children, he remembers seeing a piece called "White on White". "All I could think of was how to deface it."

Williams continues to make art and often sends it back to TCAT where his pieces hang on the wall of the soup kitchen (TASK) and TCAT's newest building, Stockton 51. Other pieces are special orders and inquiries that he gets from his self-managed Instagram page where he showcases his work.

So what does the future hold for Demond Williams? "I want to have my work in galleries and have my work viewed by a wider audience. I have a lot to cultivate, I am still a student and I am definitely still learning."

You can find Demond's work on his Instagram account ([divinetreeurban](#)) and reach him via email at divinetree7@gmail.com. 📧

Trenton Water Crisis
Continued from Page 10

O'Malley cited Madison, Wisconsin and Seattle, Washington as examples of places that are currently "getting this right."

Yet what actions are being taken right now to keep residents safe in Trenton, and should residents continue to trust that their tap water is reliable?

A hydrologist in the United States Geological Survey's New Jersey Water Science Center who asked not to be identified told The Wall that "the USGS hasn't collected any samples of water quality from the Trenton water system that I know of," and that he does not know whether or not there is significant lead in the city's water.

"Most, if not all, drinking water in Trenton comes from the Delaware River and does not have detectable lead concentrations when it enters, much less leaves, the water treatment plant on Route 29," the hydrologist stated, adding that "any lead in water in Trenton is likely derived from the municipal (under-the street) pipes and/or building plumbing."

This means that it is largely up to the individual building or shelter to test whether their water is safe to drink and that organizations should replace old copper pipes or lead pipes with new lead-free solder copper pipes while covering or removing lead paint.

So what can you do for now to see if your water is safe to drink? In order to find contaminants, the hydrologist and Rosenblatt recommended that you run the water for at least 45 seconds to a few minutes before drinking it. If you notice discolored water, you should advise water or building officials.

However, some New Jersey leaders feel that tackling the lead in the water is just the beginning of the solution to

improving the state's infrastructure.

"Yes we have to address the lead in our pipes, and that's obviously a concern, but we want a more comprehensive approach to infrastructure investment than that," said Dan Fatton of the Ewing Township-based NJ Work Environment Council and the recently established Jersey Renews environmental campaign. "We know that we have to invest big money into our pipes underground but also in the things that we see above ground like sidewalks and schools and other buildings," he added.

The need for investment in infrastructure in New Jersey's capital became evident on May 6, when a water main break caused another flood, this time in the Wilbur Section. One unexpected consequence of the damage caused by the incident was displacement for residents in the community.

"We know that we have to invest big money into our pipes underground but also in the things that we see above ground like sidewalks and schools and other buildings."

As *The Trentonian* reported, the Fleming family was forced to leave their residence following the hurricane-like flooding, as were other homeowners and renters in the area. According to Julie Janis of the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, many clients of hers who are experiencing homelessness were previously renters, but were forced to leave the properties that they called home following unsafe living conditions inside, such as pipe bursts and structural damage.

Like the individuals behind Jersey Renews, New Jersey's non-profit organizations are building up to improve the environment of cities like Trenton, a goal that, according to Fatton, "is incredibly ambitious but eminently doable." However, considering the crisis of elevated lead levels and other issues facing cities across the state and the country right now, the question is, will that be enough?

For updates on this story, please visit www.thewall.pages.tcnj.edu. 🏠



Mission Statement

The Wall is dedicated to giving a voice to and empowering individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as raising public awareness of the various issues facing the homeless population.

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Artwork in this issue is available for purchase

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A note to our readers...

This will be the last issue of *The Wall* before the newspaper undergoes a name change. We will return in the spring as *The Streetlight* newspaper.