

NJ Chapter News



AT&T

pioneers
a volunteer network



Spring 2023

Pick An Angel

Helping Hands

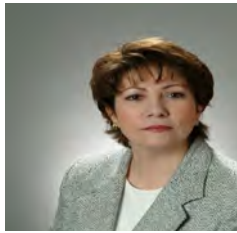
The Schuyler Hamilton House

STEM at Arena STEM

Paint the Pony Purple

The Spring Luncheon

New Jersey Chapter 139



Spring 2023

AT&T Pioneers Chapter 139
P.O. Box 1015
10 Lincoln Pl
Madison, NJ 07940-9998

908-234-3618
attpioneersnj@gmail.com

Chapter Officers

President: Suzanne Balian

Vice President Projects:
Michael Hickey

Vice President Communication:
Michael Mulvey

Vice President Membership:
Forrest Johnson

Treasurer: Elizabeth Dunn

Secretary: Brian Murphy

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Liberty Garden Club: Carla Burgess

Jersey Shore Club: Paul Fellingham

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Pat Hamilton

Larry Perez

Madhu Rang

Newsletter Editor

Madhu Rang

The NJ Pioneers Chapter 139 is published three times a year, in the Spring, Fall and Winter. We welcome your comments. Please direct these to the telephone number, email address or postal address listed above

Letter from the President

Dear Pioneers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your loved ones enjoyed the holidays!

Happy Spring my fellow Pioneers. Let the sun shine warm and bright and flowers bloom in all the colors. The spring season brings with it warmer temperatures and new growth that is celebrated by people around the world with festivals and fairs. As the spring season progresses, days and nights become milder, nature awakens and days become longer.

I always view spring as a period of transition, moving forward into a new year with new challenges and new opportunities. Spring is also the time to reflect on the past year and our many successes as we plan forward. We were finally able to volunteer in person and help our friends and neighbors, and celebrate our successes of 2022.

Paul Fellingham, long time Pioneer and recently a Life Member, was awarded AT&T Pioneers- Individual Excellence Award for his leadership in Building the Ramp Project that was detailed in the Fall newsletter. Congratulations to Paul – we are very lucky and very proud to have him on our team!

Pick an Angel 2022 campaign had another amazing Holiday Season. Over 1,300 childrens' wishes were fulfilled, through Toys for Tots, Gifts of the Season (United Way of NNJ) and by other local NJ agencies. In addition to the donated toys, almost \$10,000 was raised to match \$2,300 funds from the NJ Chapter. Thank you all so much for your generosity!

STEM project has made considerable inroads into the afterschool programs in East Orange & Newark. The program now includes Robotics, Virtual Reality and science projects among others. It even caught the eye of our Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, who attended the STEM FEST on Nov 21st, and the event was telecast by NJ News Channel 12.

In keeping with the AT&T Pioneers tradition, we continue to engage in and bring to you through the AT&T Pioneers newsletter, several multiyear projects in support of the community. Please do reach out to Michael Hickey -VP Projects, or any member of the Executive Committee, with any project ideas where Pioneers can help to increase the quality of life in your local community.

Happy Spring everyone. Please do register by May 16th, to join familiar faces at our next Luncheon on May 18th.

Stay tuned for NJ Chapter volunteer projects on our website, <https://attpioneers.org> as well as on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ATT-Pioneers>.

Suzanne Balian

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Pioneering In Action– Pick An Angel



AT&T NJ Pioneers partnered with HACEMOS NJ to help bring holiday cheer to families in need, and brighten the holiday season for needy children, seniors and adults with disabilities. This enables parents and caregivers to not have to choose between a gift for the family member or paying for a basic necessity

Following are the local agencies that were supported:

- **Norwescap Early Head Start** – supporting young children from low-income families in Morris county
- **Tomorrow’s Children’s Fund** - supporting children with cancer and serious blood disorders
- **Father English Community Center** - helping thousands of people in need each week throughout Paterson NJ
- **Central Jersey Navy League** – providing support for children of active military families
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** -Eatontown - providing mentoring to help children realize their full potential
- **Providence House** Catholic Charities -Whiting – seeking to end the cycle of domestic abuse through education, empowerment and advocacy
- **Monmouth Cares** -Long Branch - helping youth and families with emotional, behavioral, substance use, and intellectual /developmental disability needs
- **180 Turning Lives Around** -Hazlet - empowering survivors and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault to find the courage and strength to turn their lives around



Because of everyone’s generosity, we were able to touch the lives of over 1,300 angels, and bring holiday cheer to families in need this past holiday season. Below is a recap of the Pick an Angel Campaign:

Toys for Tots received:

- 82 toys either donated or purchased by us with \$500 from the AT&T NJ Pioneers!
 - Monetary donations of \$1,713.95 directly sent to The United Ways of Northern NJ and they received:
 - * 148 toys via Gifts of the Season online shopping for a total dollar amount of \$2,396
 - NJ Local agencies received Hundreds of gifts donated by our local donors
- AT&T Pioneers purchased and distributed directly from donated funds of \$5,910 + \$1,800

That’s an amazing total of over \$12,000 collected in the form of gifts, and online donations that went directly to benefit the neighbors in need!!!!

Thank you for making the holidays bright and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2023!

Become the spark of change!

Join AT&T NJ Pioneers - a volunteer network – online at www.attpioneers.org.

Become a member of HACEMOS NJ - online at hacemos.org.

Pioneering In Action— Pick An Angel

NORWESCAP



Central Jersey Navy League



Tomorrows Children's Fund

Pioneering In Action –Pick An Angel

Father English Food Bank



Toys For Tots



Pioneering In Action— Pick An Angel



Dear AT&T and Pick an Angel Campaign,



I write this letter on behalf of Norwescap Early Head Start's home visitation program to express deepest and sincerest gratitude for the holiday donations to our families this past Christmas.

I speak for us all when I say there had been high hopes that coming out of a pandemic would return us to the normalcy we had prior to 2020. Families had expressed excitement to reunite with friends and family and to return to regular activities as they once knew. Unfortunately, for so many of our families, that normalcy never came.

More than ever, our families are experiencing significant hardships. Our data shows that our working parents are now having to work more than 12-hour days, without a day off. We are seeing a rise in families having to share housing with others just to be able to afford the astronomical increase in rent in New Jersey. We are seeing more food insecurity among our families who are struggling to afford what have become luxuries, such as fresh produce.

This year, more than any other year, we have been in the homes of our Morris County communities and seen deep sadness and stress over providing a holiday experience for their children. Parents have been working hard just hoping to be able to give their young ones some sense of a normal Christmas, but falling short.

Thanks to your generosity, you were able to bring hope, joy, and familiarity to so many of our families. We were met with tears of relief, immense gratitude, and some actual excitement for what turned out to be a beautiful holiday season.

On behalf of our families and staff, I cannot say thank you enough for your donations.

Sincerely,

Annissa Worobec M.S. in Leadership
ERSEA & Home-Based Manager
(Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance)

480 Memorial Parkway
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
Ph: 908-454-8830
Fax: 908-454-0362

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Pioneering In Action—Pick An Angel



30 Prospect Avenue
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
Tel 551-996-6600 • Fax 201-488-1344
www.tcfkid.org



January 18, 2023

Ms. Karla Kimble
5 Fieldcrest Drive
Budd Lake, New Jersey 07828

Dear Karla:

A most heartfelt and warm thank you for the extremely generous donation of multiple bags of Toys as well as four large bags of assorted and fabulous wrapped Gift Sets from Bath & Body Works for the patients and families of the Tomorrows Children's Fund. Our TCF patients and their families will benefit greatly from your kind donation. We are most appreciative and we thank the AT&T Pioneers and HACEMOS NJ Members so very much for the kindness and support.

For 40 years, the Tomorrows Children's Fund has provided a warm and nurturing environment for children who are battling cancer and serious blood disorders. Our priority is to provide a full range of services to help relieve families' emotional and financial stresses. In addition to our direct financial aid programs, TCF also offers an array of activities, events and support services for our brave, young patients and their families. We also offer a supermarket gift card program, have a fully stocked food pantry and provide a full scope of emergency aid and programs for patients and families.

The Tomorrows Children's Fund is proud of its accomplishments – goals that we have met because of people like you and all AT&T Pioneers and HACEMOS NJ Members. You have helped to provide a beacon of hope for the future for all of the patients who enter the doors of the Tomorrows Children's Fund each day, week, month and year.


Please accept my most sincere appreciation for your kindness and generosity. Your donation truly continues to bring hope for a brighter tomorrow for so many children.

Thank you again and please take good care.

All the best,


Nan Norbitz Kelly
Executive Director

*Thank you so very
much for your continued
support and generosity*



Pioneering In Action—Holiday Hands Program



December 2022

Sandy Seidorf
912 Costa Drive
Amanda, NJ 08829

*Thanks to the
AT&T Pioneers
for their
generosity!*

Dear Sandy Seidorf,

Happy Holidays to you and your family! Please accept our deepest gratitude for being a donor to this year's Holiday Hands program. Last year we made some rather significant changes for our Holiday Hands donors, adjusting our programs to be fairer and more equitable. These changes, and opportunities for our clients to have a more empowered choice with their gifts, was met with overwhelming approval and appreciation. We have been fortunate to have donors like you adjust right along with us and continue your support. Another key element we added this year was an in-person application process for our clients to register for the program. This allows us to gather data respectfully and confidentially on those we are serving in order to develop and deploy additional meaningful programs aimed to best serve those in need of assistance within our county. So, we get to spread some cheer through Holiday Hands, and make informed choices for our path forward in providing effective, life enriching opportunities to those we support.

Your generosity this year was integral to ensuring the success of this program and opening your heart and your wallet to support our neighbors in need will allow United Way to serve an anticipated 2,000+ Hunterdon County residents, representing over 550 families, as well as individuals, seniors, and special needs individuals requesting assistance.

We thank you for bringing joy to our friends and neighbors who are struggling this holiday season. If just for a day, you have taken away a bit of someone's stress or uncertainty and given them a little bit of hope and happiness, and that is the best gift one can give.

Please see the acknowledgement below, which can be used for tax purposes. Thank you!

Best wishes for health and happiness in the coming New Year,

Laura Hernandez
Laura Hernandez
Program Manager

Mayra LaMantia
Mayra LaMantia
Program Coordinator

Acknowledgement – 2022

On behalf of the many individuals in our community who will benefit from United Way funded programs and services, we gratefully acknowledge your generous in-kind contributions for our Holiday Hands Program. Thank you for caring. Your generosity is appreciated and will help us as we continue our vision to... LIVE UNITED™.

Items being donated:

Value assigned by donor: \$ _____

In accordance with Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code, United Way of Hunterdon County acknowledges your donation as a gift in the pure spirit of giving. No goods or services were provided in consideration for your contribution thus your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor for more information. Our EIN is 22-2431065.

ONE ADVOCATE VOLUNTEER.

Pioneering In Action– Holiday Hands Program



Pioneering In Action -Schuyler Hamilton House

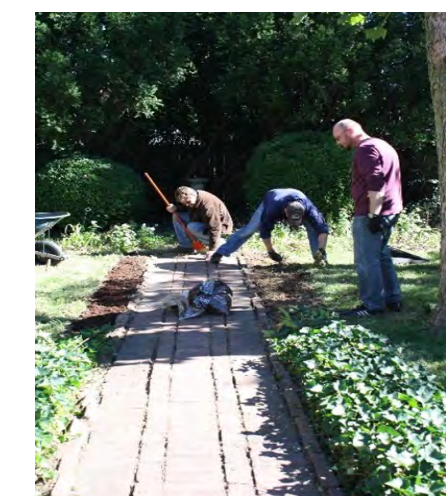
In 2013, The Schuyler Hamilton house curator had a conversation with fellow Daughters of the American Revolution (“DAR”) member, Fran Long (AT&T NJ Pioneer and now Project lead) about the lack of help in maintaining the exterior grounds of The Schuyler-Hamilton House. Many of the Morristown DAR’s members were no longer physically able to keep up the gardening work. “Well,” said Fran, “I am a part of the Telecom Pioneers, a community service group at AT&T that gets involved in gardening projects. Maybe I can get some folks interested in gardening at the house.” And that is how the Schuyler-Hamilton Garden project all began....

The AT&T NJ Pioneers (“Pioneers”) have been hosting monthly garden maintenance of The Schuyler-Hamilton House in Morristown NJ since 2014. This volunteer event is held during the Spring and Fall months when the garden needs the most maintenance. The event attracts AT&T groups, individual employees and DAR members from all over the state – Paramus, Bedminster, and Middletown, to name just a few. Each year, there is usually



a total over 100 volunteers that give more than 200 hours toward maintaining the gardens. In May 2019, the Morristown DAR had scheduled a special event to commemorate the “Suffragists Garden” in the name of the AT&T NJ Pioneers. Due to COVID, that event was cancelled.

The Schuyler-Hamilton House (also known as the Jabez Campfield House) is part of the Morristown Headquarters Experience in NJ. It is open to the public for tours each Sunday from 1-4pm. The house was built in 1760 and is on the US National Register of Historic Places. It houses a research library and many historical artifacts spanning back to the 18th century



period. Visitors of all ages come to the house from all US states and many different countries to visit.

The Pioneers are so thankful to all the AT&T employees that come (some multiple times) each year to help at this property owned by the Morristown non-profit - The Morristown Daughters of the American Revolution. Keeping the grounds in top shape was especially important once the house opened for tours post pandemic. The tour guides were able to continue to host visitors outside in the shady backyard at a safe distance amongst the well-maintained flower beds and grounds thanks to our AT&T Pioneers/volunteers.

Pioneering In Action— Schuyler Hamilton House



Visitors to the house have increased three-fold. And ‘Yes’, some members from the original cast of Hamilton did visit The Schuyler-Hamilton House to film the PBS special behind the making of the musical “Hamilton.” This gardening opportunity is one of the best kept Pioneer volunteering secrets. There are many opportunities for the Pioneers, employees, family, and friends to learn about the history of the house and area from the DAR volunteers. There is a wide range of AT&T employees across many business units in NJ who get to know each other during the day. The volunteers are truly helping to keep a public space available to visitors at the Schuyler-Hamilton House. If you and/or your organization would like to volunteer with the AT&T NJ Pioneers at The Schuyler-Hamilton House this year, please contact Pioneers Project Leader, Fran Long (fm2948@att.com).

Pioneering In Action—Food Bank

At the AT&T Pioneers Chapter 139 Christmas/Holiday luncheon, members provided extra funds for donations to the Food Bank. These donations totaled \$347.10. Eleanor Sportack and her sister Marie Zach purchased 225 pounds of food and brought it to the Franklin Food Bank, located in Franklin Township in Somerset County. The Food Bank volunteers were grateful for this contribution and helped to quickly unload the SUV. Given the current economic conditions, Food Bank is looking forward to continued support from the AT&T Pioneers.



Pioneering In Action— Students at Arena STEM

AT&T NJ Pioneer Bencilla Powell organized program for students at the STEM Arena in Paramus. The schools in attendance were George Washington Carver (Newark), Hackensack High School, STEAM Academy (Irvington), Prep School (Irvington), Patrick Healy (East Orange), Sojourner Truth (East Orange), and Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology (Paterson). Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver came out in support as well as executives from the Department of Defense also stopped by. Arena STEM is a great place for students to get exposed to Drones, Virtual Reality, 3D Pen Art, and much more. The students experienced activities that they had never seen before.



Pioneering In Action– Paint the Pony Purple

On March 26, both active and former AT&T employees/Pioneers and family members stepped forward (on stage too) to support Paint the Pony Purple, at The Stone Pony, in Asbury Park. This event was sponsored by Epilepsy Services of New Jersey. Our duties included set-up and break down, take bids at the silent auction, sell raffle tickets, serve food and beverages in the VIP area, and enjoy the numerous bands that performed to benefit individuals living with epilepsy and their families. It was a great afternoon and ESNJ was very appreciative of all the support the AT&T NJ Pioneers provided.



Pioneering In Action—2023 Spring Luncheon

Come to Bahrs Landing on May 18th to meet old friends, make new friends, enjoy sunshine, and your main course selection. Complete and send the attached Form with \$35 to reserve your space at the table.



AT&T NJ Pioneers 2023 Spring Luncheon

Put that nasty, cold winter to rest. Join us for water views, friendship, games, prizes and excellent cuisine at Bahrs Restaurant in Highlands/Sandy Hook, NJ on Thursday, May 18.

Use this form to make your reservations and menu selection, and attach a check for \$35 per person. We would appreciate the reservations before Tuesday May 16. Please bring food for distribution to the needy, or, if you prefer, a cash donation in lieu of food. Please make your reservations early.

Reservation and Meal Selection Form

Please select from: A: Broiled Combo* B: Pot Roast C: Chicken Francaise

Name	Address	Phone	Meal (A,B,C)

*Broiled Combo: Shrimp/Fish/Fried Clam Strips

Please check one:

- Lunch Only Additional Funds to Pioneers Additional Funds to Food Bank

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Cut out along the line and mail the upper half with your check. Retain this lower half for reference.
Any questions, please call Bill Pritchett at 908-803-0196.

Make check out to: AT&T NJ PIONEERS CHAPTER 139

Mail to: Ronald (Ron) Glover
98 Layayette Ave.
Chatham, NJ 07928

LUNCHEON DETAILS:

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023
Time: Starts 11:00 AM
Location: Bahrs Restaurant

2 Bay Ave., Highlands N.J. 07732
Telephone: 732-872-1245

PROGRAM:

11:00 AM Cash bar
12:00 PM Program starts
12:15 PM Lunch

My lunch selection: _____

Directions to Bahrs:

SOUTH JERSEY: Take **EXIT 105 GSP (Route 18 E / Route 36 E / Route 35)** onto **RTE 36 E**. Follow past Monmouth Park Race Track to **Ocean Ave**. Make a left, still on **RTE 36**. Follow towards Sandy Hook National Park. Go past the Park entrance and over the Highlands Bridge. Make the **1st right**. Take the ramp down the hill into the Bahrs Parking Lot.

NORTH JERSEY: Take **EXIT 117 GSP (Keyport/Hazlet)**. Bear **left** out of the toll booth and merge onto **NJ-36** toward **NJ-35/Keyport/Hazlet**. Continue on **RTE 36** for 13.5 miles until you reach the Sandy Hook Draw Bridge. *Do not go over the bridge*. Make a **right** before the bridge. Turn **left** onto **Highland Ave**. Turn **left** onto **S. Bay Ave**. Take the ramp under the bridge into the Bahrs Parking Lot.

Pioneering In Action—Soundbites

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Credits and References

AT&T Pioneers and Hacemos— Pick An Angel: Karla Kimble, Joyce McCartney, Ann Donnelly

Holiday Hands: Sandy Seidorf, Ron Seidorf

Schuyler and Hamilton House: Fran Long

Food Bank: Marie Zach, and team

STEM Students at Arena STEM: Bencilla Powell

Paint a Pony Purple: Michael Hickey, and Team

Spring Luncheon: Bill Pritchett, Ron Glover