Do You Know an Unsung LOCAL HERO?

It's time to nominate your own NJ Hero for 2016!

Dominique Lee
BRICK Academy
Jersey City
2015 Honoree
Dear Community Leader,

The Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award recognizes those who make New Jersey a better place. In 2016, we celebrate its 20th anniversary and the hundreds of NJ heroes who have made a lasting impact. Every year the Russell Berrie Foundation honors “unsung” NJ heroes who have made an uncommon contribution to the common good with the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award.

Up to eleven extraordinary people can receive this award, with the top three at $50,000, $35,000 and $25,000 – and eight runners-up receiving $5,000 each.

Please help us celebrate 20 years of the award by nominating an “unsung” hero in your own community. You can nominate someone for a single act or for a lifetime of service. An Advisory Board of prominent New Jersey citizens will select the final honorees and they will be honored at a ceremony in May, 2016.

Please feel free to pass along this information to others. You can find out more, read about past honorees and nominate a hero online at: berrieawards.ramapo.edu. Or call 201-684-7179 or e-mail madaaward@ramapo.edu for more information. Mailed nominations must be postmarked by February 19, 2016.

Thank you for helping us identify NJ heroes to honor with the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award.

Angelica Berrie
President
Russell Berrie Foundation

Peter P. Mercer
President
Ramapo College of New Jersey

Josh Weston
Honorary Chairman
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.

Dora Arias Cúrcamos
Mountainside
2015 Honoree

Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award
Honoring NJ Heroes
The Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2016.

The award for uncommon and unsung local NJ heroes funds up to three major awards of $50,000, $35,000 and $25,000 and up to eight runner-up awards of $5,000. We recognize unusual heroism and community service in our state and those who have made a significant difference to the well-being of society.

Each year, honorees are nominated from all over the state of New Jersey and from people who know their work first-hand. An Advisory Board of distinguished New Jersey business leaders and professionals evaluates the nominations and presents awards at Ramapo College in May. This year’s 20th Anniversary ceremony will be held on May 6, 2016.

The committee considers the following criteria:

- What is the scale of the accomplishment? Is it unique?
- Does the work inspire others?
- Is the person paid or a volunteer? If paid, is the accomplishment truly above and beyond?
- How enduring is the heroism or sacrifice?
- If a single act, was there a high degree of risk and danger?
- How many people were impacted or influenced?
- Would the award make a significant difference in their lives?
- Was the work carried out in New Jersey?

Please help us celebrate this milestone anniversary by nominating deserving people from your own community.

For more information or to nominate a local hero online, go to: berrieawards.ramapo.edu
Or call 201-684-7179 or e-mail madaawards@ramapo.edu.
Nominations must be submitted or postmarked by February 19, 2016.
Russell Berrie founded the Russ Berrie and Company, Inc. (RUSS), a New Jersey-based company, in 1963. Until his death in 2002, Mr. Berrie served as Chairman and Chief-Executive Officer. RUSS and its wholly-owned subsidiaries design, develop, and distribute gift, home decor, infant and juvenile products through retail outlets worldwide.

Mr. Berrie devoted endless time, energy and resources to numerous charitable causes through The Russell Berrie Foundation, created in 1985. As a philanthropist, he supported hundreds of organizations and fostered initiatives that expressed his values, passions and vision in the areas of diabetes, humanism in medicine, Jewish continuity, salesmanship as a profession, arts and culture, honoring New Jersey’s unsung heroes and strengthening communities in northern New Jersey.

The Russell Berrie Foundation continues to proactively identify and support dynamic leaders with the passion, energy and commitment to be the driving force behind programs that fulfill the broad vision of its founder: improving the well being of society. For more information on the Foundation, please visit: [www.russellberriefoundation.org](http://www.russellberriefoundation.org)

“Nothing is more important in life than helping a fellow human being.”

RUSS BERRIE 1933 - 2002

Since 1997, 321 honorees have received the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award. Read more about these local heroes and their stories inside!
From the Cover

Dominique Lee of Jersey City was awarded the $50,000 Russ Berrie making a Difference Award in 2015 for his passion as a teacher and his innovative spirit and perseverance in helping school children overcome poverty and inadequate educational resources.

As a Teach For America recruit, he was dismayed at the number of 9th grade students who were reading below a 5th grade level. In an effort to remedy a system that produced such abysmal statistics, Dominique enlisted help from fellow Teach For America alumni to create a school management nonprofit, BRICK – Building Responsible Intelligent Creative Kids. BRICK’s focus was to infuse best practices learned from district and charter schools and to address the elements of poverty impeding academic excellence.

Through Dominique’s efforts, BRICK was placed at two schools in the South Ward of Newark, both of which were in the bottom two percent of elementary schools in the state. Since the launch of BRICK, those schools are growing and its students are thriving in the classroom.

“In my line of work I get joy by seeing excitement in a child's eyes when they get a math problem or a joyful shout from a parent when their child finally achieves success on their report - other than the experiences from parents and children, I rarely experience joy - thus, winning this award was very humbling, as it was a sign that the work I do everyday with restoring hope for thousands of people means something to the community at-large.”
When Linda Gillick was told that her three-month-old son had cancer, the Toms River resident was determined to find answers. That was 35 years ago. Since then, Linda embarked on a crusade that would make a huge impact on the community and attract national attention. As more and more children from the Toms River area faced cancer diagnoses, Linda pushed to get state health officials to look into environmental causes for the unusually high cancer incidence. This got the attention of journalists and investigators who confirmed illegal dumping of chemicals into the local waterways. Linda’s tireless efforts led to funding of research and forced cleanup of several sites in the area.

She is the founder and executive director of Ocean of Love, an organization that provides much needed support, information and care to local families that are struggling with the disease. The Ocean County nonprofit has served more than 450 families since its 1988 inception. For her work, Linda was the recipient of the $35,000 Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award in 2015.

“I never expected or thought doing what was necessary would earn me the honor of the Russ Berrie Award. This award showed me that when you believe in something and you try to safeguard the life of your community, others are watching and paying attention.”
After seeing a plea from the Flemington Food Pantry asking gardeners to bring excess produce to the pantry to feed those in need, Chip Paillex of Pittstown started America’s Grow-a-Row, an organization based in Hunterdon County that grows fresh produce to feed the hungry. For his efforts, Paillex was awarded a $50,000 Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award in 2010.

“Being associated with one of the most distinguished service awards in New Jersey has permanently changed the scope and trajectory of America’s Grow-a-Row in ways that have helped thousands of New Jersey residents faced with hunger and food insecurity.”

Impact of Grow-a-Row since 2010

- **Pounds of Produce Distributed**
  - 2010: 373 Thousand, 2015: 1.2 Million
- **Volunteers Who Plant & Harvest**
  - 2010: 1,100, 2015: 5,500
- **Youth Harvesting for Family & Community**
  - 2010: 70, 2015: 758
- **Youth Educated in Classrooms**
  - 2010: 2,600 per year since 2010

read more hero stories: berrieawards.ramapo.edu
Honoring NJ’s Local Heroes
Highlights from 20 Years of Making a Difference
Eric Fuchs-Stengel  
MEVO  
Mahwah  
2012 Honoree

"The award has and continues to inspire me to work every single day to create the world I would like to live in. It shows me that down deep in our inner humanity we all want to be happy and are willing to give love to our neighbors and friends."

Did You Know...?

Nominations have been received from all 21 New Jersey counties.

The Oldest Awardee is:  
Evangelia “Poppy” Davis  
A 92-year-old who has spent every Friday the last 55 years volunteering at the Camden County Red Cross.

Jack Fanous  
G.I. Go Fund  
Marlton  
2013 Honoree
The Making a Difference Award recognized 15 people who performed a single act of heroism that saved or attempted to save lives.

The Youngest Awardee is:
Malcolm Sutherland-Foggio
An 11-year-old battling cancer, who founded Make Some Noise research foundation.

From preschoolers to high school students to senior citizens, City Green supports educational farm and garden programming that forges a connection between people, food and nature because we believe green, natural spaces and farm to table food should be available to everyone. Thank you so much for including us in the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award!

Read about all the honorees & nominate your own NJ Hero at: berrieawards.ramapo.edu
The Honorees

Joseph Abate III, North Caldwell
Amal Abdalla, Lyndhurst
Arthur Ackerman
Susan Adams, Egg Harbor
Hernan Agudelo, Union
Adam Alberti
Paige Alenick, Woodcliff Lake
Imma Ugomma Anyanwu, Maplewood
Marie Ardizzoni, Bergenfield
Rodrigo Argurto
Dora Arias, Mountainside
James Baber, Bayonne
Marguerite Baber, Bayonne
John Babitz, Wayne
Nelson Baez, South Plainfield
Samuel Baker, Mt. Tabor
Robert Belfiore, Pt. Pleasant
Chaya Bender, Lakewood
Douglas Berrian, Hewitt
John Bertollo, Hawthorne
Andrew Bertone, Rutherford
Anthony Bevivino, Villas
Roxanne Black, New Brunswick
Joseph Blythe II, Hasbrouck Heights
Dean Brauch, North Haledon
Jim Brawley, Westwood
George Brewer, Wayne
Clyde Briggs, Somerset
Derrick Brown, Orange
William Brown
Marjorie Brubaker, Sicklerville
Paul Burns, Bogota
David Butler, Englewood
Lorettta Campbell, Waldwick
Ronald Canella, Manalapan
Cathy Caristi, Lodi
Frederick Carl, Ocean Grove
Theresa Carroll, Upper Saddle River
Thomas Cash, Short Hills
Zachary Certner, Morristown
Wayne Cesa, Hawthorne
Okey Chenoweth, Oakland
Eugene Cheslock, Little Silver
Ray Chimileski, Califon
Patricia Chisholm, Short Hills
Dana Leigh Christmas
Anne Ciavaglia McMahon, Hasbrouck Heights
Robert Clark, Newark
Stephanie Clark
William Clutter, Trenton
Jamie Lauren Cohen, Livingston
James Collins, Morristown
Elise Collins
Jerome Colwell, Bayonne
Sugar Ray Coney

Edith Coogan, Cranford
Matthew Cortland, Marlton
Regina Coyle, Little Ferry
James Credle, Newark
Michael Curtis
Rosemarie D’Alessandro, Hillsdale
Diane D’Apolito-May, Pequannock
Raymond & Patricia Dansen, North Haledon
Evangelia Davis, Cherry Hill
Barbara Davis
Charles III Dean, Woolwich Township
Andrew Deane
Susan DeAppolonio, North Plainfield
Richard DeFeo, Mays Landing
Carmen DeGregorio, Millville
Luis Diaz
Kathleen DiChiara, Hillside
Kathy DiFiore, Ramsey
Reno Domenico
Michael Doyle, Camden
Evelyn Dudziec
Gail Dunlap Reuben, Convent Station
Kelly Dvorin, Cranbury
Garrett Dykhous, Wyckoff
William Elliott, Somers Point
David Engle
Anthony Falzo, Wayne
Jack Fanous, Marlton
Janet Farrand, Long Valley
June Favata, Newark
Daniel Feldman, Linwood
Amanda Feldman
Louis Feliciano
Saul Fenster, Newark
Jacinta Fernandes, Elizabeth
Pasquale Ferrelli, Burlington
Linda Walder Fiddle, Ridgewood
Jane Fiedler, Teaneck
Ella Filippone, Basking Ridge
Lucinda Florio, Metuchen
David Foster
Keely Freeman, East Orange
Frank French
Eric Fuchs-Stengel, Mahwah
Lillian Gallagher, Lakewood
Kathleen Garcia
Jane Geoghegan, Toms River
Jason Gibis
Victoria Giblin, Paramus
Allyson Gilbert
Linda Gillick, Toms River
James Gilligan, West Milford
Paul Gingras, Teaneck
Louise Ginn
Sandy Glazier, Pt. Pleasant
The Honorees

Clare Golden, Newton
Lisa Goldman, Clifton
Estelle Goldsmith, East Brunswick
Claudio Gomez, West New York
Sarah Gordy, Braddock
Jessica Gotthold, Mahwah
Jerry Gray
Eileen Griffith, Chester
Barry Hackett, West Atlantic City
Hunter Halvorsen, Ridgefield
Sally Hanna-Schaefer, Wenonah
Jane Hanson, Montclair
Janet Hansraj, Cliffside Park
April Harris, Hoboken
Zamir Hassan, Bedminster
Ryan & Charity Haygood, Newark
Patricia Heenan
Lillian Hendry, Freehold
Najlah Feanny Hicks, Clifton
James Hill, Paterson
Alma Hill-Byron
Juanita Hines, Orange
Mary Hirschman, Ridgefield Park
Kevin Hoagland, New Brunswick
Terrance Hoben, Bound Brook
Donyea Hoffman Goodwin, Newark
Frederick Hoffmann, River Edge
Veronice Horne, Newark
Adam & Blair Hornstein, Moorestown
John Howard
Allison Hynes, Fords
Yusef Ismail, Newark
Frances Jackson
Sylvia Jackson, Newark
Joyce Jenkins, Marlboro
Carey Jenkins, Wyckoff
James Joiner
Tawanda Jones, Camden
George Jones, Prospect Park
John Jordan, Pennsville
Adolphus Scott Jr., Newark
Richard & Maureen Kanka
Adele Katz, Glen Ridge
Dana Katzman-Spett, Mahwah
Allen Keller, Montclair
Patricia Kettenring, Summit
Stacey Kindt
Henry & Ruth King
Robert Kita, Manville
Kristin Kosch, Mahwah
Claude Kranik, Totowa
Stanley Kuchar, Saddle River
Jack Kuepfer, Clifton
Edwin Leahy, Newark
Dominique Lee, Jersey City
Larry Lenahan, Englewood

Roberta Leveson, Marlboro
Frank Light, Clark
Lula Linder
Daria Lojik, Wayne
Carl Lovern
William Lovett, Metuchen
Ed Lucas
Carmela Lunt, Metuchen
Kye-Eun Ma, Englewood
Jeff Macaulay, Middlesex
Diana Marichal, Paramus
Christopher Marley, Manalapan
Joseph Martoccia
Anthony Marzocca, Wayne
Jim McCloskey
Brian McCormick, Trenton
Alice McCoy, O.P., Jersey City
JoAnn McCullough, Montclair
Robert McDermott, Camden
Laura McKirdy, Far Hills
Tim McLoone, Fair Haven
Shannon McNamara
Rosemary McSorley, Esq., Hastings
Eugene McVeigh, Lodi
Brian Meersma, Princeton Junction
Shimul Mehta, Rutherford
Daniela Mendelsohn, Englewood
Angelica Mercado, North Bergen
Theresa Meyer
Nicholas Milner, Cranbury
Milton Mintz, Denville
Thomas Moehler, Bayville
Blanca Molina, North Bergen
Dianne Montuori, Bergenfield
Barbara Moran csip, Ed.D., Teaneck
Eddie Muldrow, Teaneck
Mary Mulholand
Beatrice Rose Napier, Washington Township
Alicia Nash, Princeton Junction
Joseph Neary, Fair Lawn
Susan Nobelman, Green Village
Thomas O’Leary, Somerville
Joseph Obrochta, Woodcliff Lake
Mackenzie Olson, Mantua
Gary Oppenheimer, Newfoundland
Chip Pailllex, Pittstown
Jennifer Papa, Ringwood
Clark & Jean Paradise, Toms River
Sharon Parker, Hackensack
Stephen Parrott, East Orange
Kathleen Pearson, Brick
Evelyn Personeus
The Honorees

Barry Lee Petty, Edgewater
Leonard Pine, Wayne
Samuel Pinkard, Montclair
Richard Pomplio, Sparta
Claire Insalata Poulos, Englewood
Viola Preston, Camden
Marion Puccio, Newfoundland
Mayme Puccio
Sandra Ramos, Ringwood
Erika Rech, Middletown
Scott Reddin, Englewood
George Reed, Irvington
Robin Reilly, Oradell
Haley Reimbold, Roosevelt
Robert Relay, River Vale
Phil Reynolds, Long Valley
Michael Ricciardone, Jersey City
Faith Rice, Califon
Loryn Riggio, Paterson
Douglas Roberts, Oxford
Hillary Roberts, Keyport
Kathy Roberts, Medford Lakes
Barry Rochester, Paterson
Donald Roden, Hillsborough
Natasha Rodgers, Somerset
Deborah Rooney, Ventnor
Saranne Rothberg, Tenafly
Stephen Rozzelle, Basking Ridge
Michael Ruane, Belford
Barbara Salany, R.N.
Ellarae Saunders, Alexandria
Eli Schaap, Teaneck
Joan Schaefer, Bergenfield
Anna Scherillo-Garbaccio
Shaindy Schorr, Lakewood
Michael Sciullo, Brigantine
Carol Scullin, Morristown
Lipica Shah, New York
Amani Shakur, Newark
Sa'idah Sharif, Roselle
Bill Sheehan, Hackensack
Mohamed Sheraiah, Union
Sanford Shevack, Paterson
Sheila Shuford, Randolph
Alec Silverman, Fort Lee
Thomas Slane, River Edge
James Slyvester
Christene Smellie
William Smith, Fairview
Mary Smith
Larry Smith
Franklin Smith, Bloomfield
Ron Snipes, Perth Amboy
Ronald Stanley, O.P., Midland Pk
Thomas Stewart

Suzanne Stigers, Andover
Helen Stummer, Metuchen
Arlene Sullivan
Malcolm Sutherland-Foggio, Florham Park
Anna Sweany, Middletown
Delores Switzer, Neshanic Station
Wojciech Syszeko, Lawrenceville
Thelma Thiel
William Thomas
Karnig Thomasian, Pompton Plains
Lindsey Tippet, Hamilton
Kathleen Toth, Wyckoff
Catherine Turner, Teaneck
Beverly Turner, Irvington
Joann Tyler
R. Brian Ullmann, Ramsey
Roberta Vickery
Mark Wade, Saddle River
Ann Wagner, Wyckoff
Mary Lou Wallace, Woodcliff Lake
Richard Ward, Ringwood
Jean Webster, Atlantic City
Erik Wegner, Emerson
John Weingart, Trenton
Yaakov Weiss, Teaneck
John West
Kevin Williams, Maywood
Baye Wilson, Montclair
Nancy Wolf, New Brunswick
Deborah Wolfe
Nancy Woods, Teaneck
Jean Wunder, Glen Rock
Hellen Wyckoff, Butler
Mary Xavier, Orange
Rita Yohalem, West Orange
Linda Yolman, Wyckoff
Albert Youkin, Hillsdale
Morgan Young, Marmora
Mort Zaleski, Union Beach
Sarah Zogar, North Bergen
Robert Zufall, Mountain Lakes
Read about all the honorees & nominate your own NJ Hero at:
berrieawards.ramapo.edu

Dana Spett
Pony Power Therapies
Mahwah
2007 Honoree

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NJ

Ramapo College of New Jersey is proud to coordinate the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award for the Russell Berrie Foundation.

Ramapo College is New Jersey’s Public Liberal Arts College, dedicated to providing students a strong foundation for a lifetime of achievement. The College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. Ramapo emphasizes teaching and individual attention to all students. We promote diversity, inclusiveness, sustainability, student engagement, and community involvement.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor’s degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, and professional studies, including nursing and social work. The College also offers seven graduate programs. Ramapo is often viewed as a private college, due in part to its unique disciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.