Do You Know an Unsung LOCAL HERO?

It’s time to nominate your own NJ Hero for 2017!

Chief Vincent Mann
Turtle Clan, Ramapough Lenape Tribe
West Milford
2016 Honoree

Russ Berrie
Making a Difference Award
Honoring NJ Heroes
Dear Community Leader,

The Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award recognizes those who make New Jersey a better place. In 2017, we celebrate its 21st 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 21 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 2017.

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 email madaawards@ramapo.edu for more information. Mailed nominations must be postmarked by February 17, 2017.

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
Co-Chair, Advisory Board

Josh Weston
Honorary Chairman
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.
Co-Chair, Advisory Board

Tawanda Jones
Camden Sophisticated Sisters
Camden 2014 Honoree
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 ceremony will be held on May 5, 2017.

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 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 17, 2017.
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

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

RUSS BERRIE 1933 - 2002

Since 1997, 333 honorees have received the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award. Read more about these local heroes and their stories inside!
In 2009, Vincent Mann took the title and responsibilities of the Ringwood-based Turtle Clan Chief of the Ramapough-Lenape Tribe, situated in the Ramapo Mountains. Turtle Clan members live near and atop the historic Ringwood mines, a site which remains contaminated and hazardous. Beginning in the 1950s through the 1970s, the Ford Motor Company, then located in Mahwah, systematically dumped toxic materials into the mines and the surrounding region, which was found to be a potential cause of continuing illness and premature death that had plagued the people who lived there. The area was listed as a Superfund project by the EPA, forcing Ford to clean up. By the end of the 1990s, the EPA deemed the project complete but illness and evidence of contamination persisted, spiraling the clan members into much hopelessness. Something needed to be done. Chief Mann, who resides in West Milford, rallied his people and, with the help of the newspapers who documented the story, convinced the EPA to reopen the Superfund site, forcing Ford to do additional cleanup. He worked with faculty at NYU and Ramapo College, and state and federal health and disease control agencies to study the health effects from waste sites on Ringwood tribal residents. Chief Mann became not only the tireless representative of the Turtle Clan and their ultimate survival but also a passionate advocate for a cleaner, safer environment.

Chief Mann also serves as the cultural monitor to ensure that the sacred land of his clan remains preserved as gas companies seek to expand their fracking efforts from Pennsylvania to the east. For his work on behalf of the Turtle Clan, the Ramapough Lenape Tribe, all the people in the surrounding region and the environment itself, Chief Vincent Mann was the recipient of the $50,000 Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award.

“I do it because it is the right thing to do. Because I am a human. I think it is up to us as humans to pass that on to other humans and people who have had bad experiences in their life to try to help them to see the good in the world or that they can make that difference.”
Faye Zealand of Howell, the recipient of the $25,000 Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award, knew very little about AIDS in the mid-1980s. But when a close family friend died of the disease, Faye and her husband Terrence felt compelled to take action. She began volunteering in the AIDS unit at the United Children’s Hospital in Newark where pioneering work was being done. Faye learned that many babies and young children who were HIV-positive were confined to hospitals simply because there was nowhere for them to go. Faye and Terrence founded the AIDS Resource Foundation for Children in 1987, the goal of which was to provide children with a nurturing and supportive environment while awaiting return to their own relatives or placement in foster homes. With a $150,000 grant from the State Department of Health, they established the first transitional home for children with AIDS in the country – St. Clare’s in Elizabeth, named for the patron saint of children in distress. Additional homes have since opened in Jersey City and Neptune and have extended their services to abused and neglected medically fragile children. St. Clare’s also provides medical case management, referral of health and mental health services, substance abuse treatment, peer support groups, emergency food pantry, and nutrition counseling. Faye’s work for 30 years has helped fight the stigma of HIV-AIDS, lessen disparities in education and healthcare for the families they serve, and has been a beacon of hope for children and their families.

First and foremost, improving health in any way you can, overcoming people’s fears, redefining family, is making a difference. We are fortunate enough to be parents, three wonderful children, five grandchildren, we have been blessed and we know it. We also know we can do for other children and for other families what we have done for our own. I have the honor and the privilege of accepting an award that says to them, people care, people know what we are doing and they care.

Faye Zealand
AIDS Resource Foundation for Children
Howell
2016 Honoree
Honoring NJ’s Local Heroes

Highlights from Heroes Making a Difference
I have been a volunteer for the Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice since its inception. I felt it a privilege and an honor to receive the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award, 2016. As I listened to each share their story it made me aware of the universal importance of volunteers.

We don't often think of how a selfless act may unknowingly change the life of a child, a teen or an adult. Thank you to all volunteers for reaching out to others.

Julia Quinlan
Karen Ann Quinlan Foundation
Newton
2016 Honoree
In September 2010, Jane and Joseph Clementi of Ridgewood suffered a devastating loss when their son Tyler, a student at Rutgers University, committed suicide after an episode of cyberbullying. Tyler had been targeted by his freshman year roommate because of his sexual orientation. In the months that followed Tyler’s death, Jane and Joseph somehow found the strength to carry on with their lives but also to inspire a better world and way of life for others. They founded the Tyler Clementi Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to end online and offline bullying in schools, workplaces and faith communities. The Clementis have traveled across the country to share their story and promote safe, inclusive and respectful environments for vulnerable youth and their allies. They have built a relationship with Rutgers University, where the Tyler Clementi Center researches bullying prevention and the freshman year experience and transition. Jane and Joseph also collaborated with the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus to create an arrangement called Tyler’s Suite, a piece that shares Tyler’s story, and are working with the New York Law School to create The Tyler Clementi Institute for Internet Safety.

“Receiving the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award has reminded us of how important our work is and how many people we reach. Most of all we are inspired to continue our progress to end offline and online bullying.”

Jane and Joseph Clementi
Tyler Clementi Foundation
Ridgewood
2016 Honorees

read more hero stories: berrieawards.ramapo.edu
Advocating for social justice is exhausting and can often times feel like shouting in the dark, but it's things like the Russ Berrie Award that make me realize that people are listening. It was so empowering, heartwarming, and uplifting to receive recognition at this level, but that was not the best part. Learning about the other heroes from my state that had done such remarkable things to make this world a better place impacted me profoundly, and contributed to my understanding of how much good there is in this world.

Ziad Ahmed
ReDefy.org
Princeton
2016 Honoree

The Russell Berrie Foundation has a tremendous impact on grassroots organizations. As the recipient of the 2015 Russ Berrie Award for Making a Difference, it gave me the validation and credibility that Curémonos is making a difference in underserved communities affected by breast cancer. I was inspired by the work of the other recipients and I was reminded of the importance of our work in making a difference in the community.

Dora Arias
Curémonos
Mountainside
2015 Honoree

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
Ziad Ahmed, Princeton
Adam Alberti
Paige Alenick, Woodcliff Lake
Imma Ugomma Anyanwu, Maplewood
Marie Ardizzzone, 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
Betty Prezzy Bryant, Hillsdale
Paul Burns, Bogota
David Butler, Englewood
Loretta Campbell, Waldwick
Ronald Canella, Manalapan
Cathy Carisi, 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
Jane & Joseph Clementi, Ridgewood
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 Crede, Newark
Michael Curtis
Rosemarie D'Alessandro, Hillsdale
Diane D'Apolito-May, Pequannock
Patricia & Raymond 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 Dykhause, 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
Lisa Gladwell, River Edge
Sandy Glazier, Pt. Pleasant
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
Seth Grumet, Marlboro
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
Charity & Ryan Haygood, Newark
Patricia Heenan
Lillie 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
Maureen & Richard 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
Adam Lowy, Asbury Park
Ed Lucas
Carmela Lunt, Metuchen
Kye-Eun Ma, Englewood
Jeff Macaulay, Middlesex
Vincent Mann, West Milford
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., Hartsdale
Eugene McVeigh, Lodi
Brian Meersma, Princeton Junction
Shimul Mehta, Rutherford
Daniela Mendelsohn, Englewood
Angelica Mercado, North Bergen
Connie Mercer, Lawrenceville
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 Mulholland
Beatrice Rose Napier,
Washington Township
Alicia Nash, Princeton, Njctn
Joseph Neary, Fair Lawn
Susan Nobelman, Green Village
Thomas O’Leary, Somerville
Joseph Obrochta, Woodcliff Lake
Mackenzie Olson, Mantua
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<td>Robert Zufall</td>
<td>Mountain Lakes</td>
</tr>
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RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NJ

Ramapo College of New Jersey is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top in the Best Regional Public Universities North category for public institutions. It is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary 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.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor’s degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers seven graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Jennifer Papa
City Green
Ringwood
2015 Honoree

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