New Kiosk’s at all O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Locations

New Kiosk’s were distributed and placed in the lobby’s of all O.C.E.A.N., Inc. locations. The Kiosk’s will allow the customers to provide their feedback by completing a “Customer Needs Survey” and sending it to the final destination in real time.

During the General Staff Meeting and at area locations, staff including Monique McSorley at the Child Development Center at OCC (See attached photo) had the opportunity to train on the survey which will enable them to assist the families.

As a result of the new technology, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. increased survey intake by 40% in the first month of tracking and it is now up to a 60% increase as customers become familiar with the user-friendly Kiosk’s.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. is now accepting 2018 Home Energy (LIHEAP) The Application Deadline Date is April 30, 2018

Monique McSorley, Family Partner at the Ocean, Inc. Child Development Center at Ocean County College trains on the new Kiosk.
Cold Means “Code Blue” for the Shore Homeless

Ocean County has declared a “Code Blue,” an official alert status that requires counties and some municipalities to take steps to shelter the homeless when the temperatures drop below freezing. During a Code Blue alert, law enforcement and other agencies who come into contact with homeless people will tell them about the municipal, county and non-profit resources available to get them out of the cold.

The law requires county OEM coordinators to declare Code Blue alerts when the weather forecast shows temperatures below 32 degrees with precipitation or the wind chill temperatures will be below zero degrees for two or more hours.

The Code Blue triggers warming centers to open for those in need.

Each time a Code Blue alert is announced, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. staff also sends the alert to all employees at all agency offices making them aware of the event as they come into contact with the homeless at their designated offices. In addition, agency staff distribute flyers of the alert and also place the flyer (showing all warming stations) on the outside door of each Ocean County office building.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Day at Lakewood Blue Claws

Just a reminder that the O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Day at Lakewood Blueclaws stadium is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2018 at 5 pm. (Bonus - Friday is Fireworks Day !!!)

If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact Theresa Gerhard at (732) 569-3635.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Receives Knitted Items from Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey

The O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Head Start Enrollment Officer Christine Lach (left) accepts knitted donations from Julissa Padilla, Health Community Representative Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey.

The items were knitted by Harmony Hall Needlers and Somebody Cares Knitting Clubs both of Whiting, NJ. The newly knitted items were distributed to Head Start families at all agency centers. The younger siblings of families who received donations last year, continue to use these well-made knitted products which will last into future generations.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. First Time Homebuyer Program

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. is the administrator for the Ocean County Consortium's First-Time Homebuyer program. During the month of February, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. conducted two First Time Homebuyer Seminars at the Ocean County Planning Department in downtown Toms River.

Individuals and families interested in the 1st Time Homebuyer Program should contact Harriot Westbrook, the O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Housing Counselor 732-288-2614, Ext. 104. The program utilizes HUD income guidelines to determine eligibility. All eligible applicants must attend a free introductory seminar that covers the basics of home buying and homeownership including topics such as determining how much you can afford, the importance of your credit report, the mortgage application process, and a review of homeownership responsibilities. To date, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. has had 524 First Time Homebuyer Closings since 1996.

The O.C.E.A.N., Inc. First Time Homebuyer Counselor Harriet Westbrook kicks-off the seminar by introducing guest speakers including real estate agents, home inspectors, credit counselors and mortgage loan officers.
To Whom it May Concern:

This is just a little note to show my appreciation for the wonderful job done by the Weatherization Technicians of O.C.E.A.N., Inc. for my trailer. Not only did Neil and his crew do an excellent job but Janet also deserves Kudos for the part she played in assisting me in pulling it all together. Every time I called, she was pleasant and helpful and if I had to leave a message, she was quick in calling me back. Everyone was extremely accommodating. Once again, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone.

Sincerely, Theresa Giallouto, Barnegat

Hi Debbie & Other Home Energy Representatives:

It was such a blessing to come there to put my application in for Home Energy at the Toms River location. Your smiles and kindness can change one persons’ day. It did for me and I wanted to send you this card with gospel. God bless you both. Sincerely, Robin

Dear Mr. Channell Wilkins:

I want to express my thanks for a very wonderful experience I had with Theresa Delosa. I am sure you get comments from angry people but I am not one of them. Theresa was very kind and understanding and pointed me in the right direction and I got the information I needed. It is refreshing to find a person that knows her job and is also kind. Please thank her again for me.

Sincerely, Mary Donnoli

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. bringing in new fleet through Enterprise

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. has begun taking delivery of the first phase of new vehicles arriving to the agency through a new four (4) year contract negotiated through the Enterprise Fleet Management Program.

The new program through Enterprise will assist O.C.E.A.N. Inc in improving the management and compliance of the fleet including managing fleet maintenance costs and providing the agency with the buying power of a national corporation.

Through this program, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. will be able to rotate fleet vehicles every four years and realize overall cost savings of $200,000 over the course of seven (7) years. ♦
At the start of 2017, all O.C.E.A.N., Inc. employees participated in an energy conservation contest to see which agency location could reduce their energy consumption.

It was a tight race with some great competition however in the end there could only be one winner and it was the Barnegat Head Start Center with only a 3% difference between first place and sixth place! Congratulations Barnegat Head Start!

The team at Barnegat won a free lunch catered by Sweet Jenny’s restaurant which was served by agency staff including Channell Wilkins, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. President/CEO, Beth Hudson, CFO and Meg Saunders, Head Start Director.

During the lunchtime celebration, the Barnegat Head Start staff revealed some of their strategies which gave them an edge, placing them in the lead. These included little things like unplugging the copy machine, shutting down laptops when not in use and shutting off the lights and water in-between uses. The little things they performed did not affect their work environment and made a difference in their energy savings.

Just a reminder that the next round of the Energy Challenge has already begun! The second round started in October and will run through March, 2018 with the winning site receiving a catered lunch in 2018.

Keep up the great energy saving job and remember, the next free catered lunch could be at your location!

Fun Facts: Through this competition, overall the company saved $5,245.90, which is 14.72% of O.C.E.A.N., Inc.’s energy costs! ✦
The O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Human Resources Department and the agency Head Start Social Services Coordinator participated in the Southern Ocean County and Social Services Information Day at the Ocean County College Southern Extension Campus in Manahawkin.

The Outreach event was made possible by Ocean County Human Services and OCC staff. Students had the chance to discuss opportunities for internships and employment positions with O.C.E.A.N., Inc. and other organizations.

The goal of the event was to raise awareness of resources and services and to link students from Southern Ocean County to these organizations.

South Jersey Legal Services, STEPS and O.C.E.A.N., Inc. staff presented a seminar on Landlord Tenant and Child Support at the Ocean County Library Lakewood Branch. The seminar was provided in conjunction with the Superior Court of New Jersey-Ocean County.

Photo: O.C.E.A.N., Inc. staff (l-r) Linda Davis, Head Start Social Services Coordinator, Leslie Perna, Human Resources Assistant and Sherrie Huff, Head Start Director present materials and discuss internship opportunities with Christine Cassidy, Adjunct Professor at the OCC Southern Extension Center.

L-r: Mike McNeil, President-STEPS (Solutions to End Poverty), South Jersey Legal Services staff attorneys Jakai Jackson, Toks Emmanuel and Ashley Manto, Managing Attorney Natasha McLaurin, Channell Wilkins, President/CEO of O.C.E.A.N. Inc., and James Casteneda, Ombudsman Superior Court of New Jersey Ocean County.
Project Homeless Connect is a national program that strengthens and utilizes collaborations with city agencies, businesses, and organizations to provide comprehensive holistic services, both at service events and through continued care for those who are at risk of becoming homeless, are currently homeless or are transitioning from shelter to permanent housing.

The survey is an effort that helps determine the number of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homelessness in the community and allows workers to serve them with appropriate resources and services.

The purpose of the survey is to count, describe and understand homeless people who do not use shelters and are typically found on the streets, in abandoned buildings or other places not meant for human habitation. It is an effort to obtain an accurate snapshot of New Jersey's homeless population in response to a directive from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Collecting baseline data is essential to understanding the causes of homelessness and to designing effective responses. Ocean and other counties are required to report the number of people who are homeless at particular intervals in order to apply for HUD Continuum of Care funding. This funding is a discretionary grant that provides housing and supportive services to people with special needs. Data collection at regular intervals also helps track progress toward reducing homelessness.

The surveys are filled out at the event and the data is entered by trained volunteers and sent off to a database established by Monarch Housing. This is how the state is able to calculate a more accurate count for the homeless and at-risk communities. The Point in Time survey is only conducted once a year and the final results of the survey take a few months to be calculated.

The Project Homeless Connect and Point in Time survey programs were not only at The Hope Center. The St. Francis Community Center in Manahawkin, the New Life Christian Center in Lakewood, the Greater Tuckerton Food Pantry, the Toms River Community Church, and Ocean County Hunger Relief in Toms River also hosted Project Homeless Connect.

The Lakewood Community Center, BEAT Center in Toms River, the Ocean County Library in Toms River, Visitation Relief Center in Brick, and Catholic Charities in Lakewood also hosted survey sites.

Food items including bottled water, juice boxes, individually wrapped snacks, such as granola bars, crackers, nuts and trail mix and personal items including tooth brushes, toothpaste, travel-size soap and deodorant were provided at each Project Homeless Connect site. Donated clothing for the event included, coats, new gloves, hats, towels and blankets, flashlights/w batteries and sleeping bags.
Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc. (OHI) in partnership with O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Head Start brought their Mobile Medical Van to the Brick Head Start Center and other centers throughout the fall to provide dental exams and flu shots.

The OHI mobile medical unit includes two fully equipped exam rooms for both the medical and dental services. These services are provided to the children whose families may not have insurance, are self-pay patients or are recipients of Medicare Plan A.

The Head Start students received the flu shot at no cost through the Vaccines for Children (VCF) Program, a federally funded program offered at OHI.

All students left with a goodie bag consisting of toothpaste, a toothbrush, floss and educational material for the student and parents. ♦

**Captions for Photos:**

*Upper Photo: OHI Mobile Medical Van.*

*Middle Photo: l-r OHI Staff Monika Kwiatkowska and Aurania Natsis provide Head Start student William with his flu shot.*

*Lower Photo: OHI Staff Patricia Gibbons counted Head Start student Ava's teeth during her exam.*
Winterfest at the O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Barnegat and Berkeley Head Start Centers

In a gathering that including the parents and children of the Berkeley and Barnegat Head Start Centers, Head Start staff at both locations created games, crafts and made snacks for the celebratory Winterfest gathering.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc Head Start is accepting applications for the 2018 – 2019 school year

Head Start offers a FREE comprehensive pre-school program at several locations throughout the county. The program provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum, child health screenings, family services, accepts special needs children, provides meals and snacks, and transportation-half day only.

The program services children ages 3 to 5. Children need to be 3 years by October 1, 2018. Eligible children who turn 3 years after October 1, 2018 will be placed on a waiting list.

Requirements for eligibility:

- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Income – Documentation must be from the past twelve months or calendar year
- Health Documentation – physical, dental, immunizations, H&H/lead screenings

For more information, please call (732) 244-9114 to request an application or download the application at our website located at www.oceaninc.org.
Teachers and youth of the Middle Township School District participated in Stealth Learning workshops hosted by the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Inc. in Cape May County. The renowned, Dr. James Rossler and his associates trained 8 designated teachers and 6 youth using four learning stations including the Cognitive Station, the Survey Monkey Station, Top Gun Bean Drop and a Drone Simulator.

Throughout the training the teachers and students were reminded that they were nothing without the support of each other. At each station, the groups learned the concept of team rotation, reset and task as the team leaders made the decisions and coordinated with team members.

Those team members that followed and remembered jobs assignments scored best overall. Team members discussed techniques that assisted them in completing tasks efficiently/effectively, strengthened flexibility and increased problem solving abilities. The training allowed the team to prepare 5th grade students in Middle Township to increase their scores on the PARCC test.

*Right Photo:* Middle Township Teacher Pamela Shute performs a practice run with a drone as Stealth Learning Instructor-Dayton Mitchell coaches. *Lower Photo:* The Stealth Learning Team, teachers from the Middle Township School District and student assistants participated in the 2-Day Workshop hosted by the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Inc.
Earned Income Tax Credit at Fulfill

Need more money? Get your taxes done for free and claim your earned Income Tax Credit. Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean County are spreading the word about EITC. Working families in New Jersey with annual incomes under $53,930 may qualify to get up to $8,529 as a credit or refund on their 2017 taxes under EITC.

Fulfill offers free personalized tax preparation by IRS certified tax professional for households with dependents or individuals earning $30,000 or less at the following sites:

Ocean County and Monmouth Malls, The Beat Center at 1769 Hooper Avenue in Toms River, the Ocean County Library (Toms River and Lakewood Branches) and the Lakewood Resource and Referral Center at 212, 2nd St. in Lakewood.

What to Bring? Valid Drivers license of photo ID, previous year’s return, birth dates and social security cards (or verification letter) for yourself, spouse and dependents to be claimed on the tax return, Form 1095 if you received health insurance, all income statements (W2, Social Security, unemployment or other benefit statements, self employment records and other documents showing taxes withheld). Dependent child care information (1099B), student loan interest payments, tuition, 1098T-1099R for pensions, annuities, social security benefits, copy of your 2017 property tax bill, mortgage payments, 1098 with home mortgage interest or rent receipts signed by the landlord. For electronic filing, both spouses must be present to sign a joint return. For Direct Deposit, bring a check with your bank routing and account numbers.

If you have any questions, please call Fulfill at (732) 643-5888.

Barbara Scholz, the Director at Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean Counties visited the staff during O.C.E.A.N., Inc. General Staff Meeting and discussed the Earned Income Tax Credit Program.

Wells Fargo Visits O.C.E.A.N., Inc.

Ms. Diane Lawson, Wells Fargo Branch Manager of the Bayville office stopped by to visit O.C.E.A.N., Inc. staff and to discuss banking options available to the employees and their families.

During her visit she discussed a new checking bonus offered by Wells Fargo which includes developing a new relationship with the bank. By opening a new eligible Wells Fargo checking account between February 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018 with a minimum deposit of $25 plus qualifying direct deposits, you could be eligible for incentive bonus’s.

To learn more about the program, you can contact Ms. Lawson at (732) 237-3434.
**DIRECTORY OF O.C.E.A.N., INC. SERVICE LOCATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corporate Office</th>
<th>Branch Offices Home Energy/Weatherization</th>
<th>Atlantic/Cape Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 1029</td>
<td>P.O. Box 1029</td>
<td>Galloway Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toms River, NJ 08754</td>
<td>Lakewood Office</td>
<td>76 W Jimmy Leeds Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>732-244-5333</td>
<td>Pleasantville Office</td>
<td>Galloway, NJ 08205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 732-349-4227</td>
<td></td>
<td>(609) 677-6801</td>
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**O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Kids-Head Start Centers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barnegat</th>
<th>Berkeley Township</th>
<th>Brick Township</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Ocean Ave.</td>
<td>264 First Ave.</td>
<td>503 Adamston Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnegat, NJ 08005</td>
<td>South Toms River, NJ 08757</td>
<td>Brick, NJ 08723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 609-660-9101</td>
<td>Tel: 732-341-7557</td>
<td>Tel: 732-477-1155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 609-660-9768</td>
<td>Fax: 732-341-5492</td>
<td>Fax: 732-477-6513</td>
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**O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Kids at Toms River**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manchester</th>
<th>Delegate Agency</th>
<th>Atlantic City Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2950 Wilbur Avenue</td>
<td>30 East Eighth Street</td>
<td>1125 Atlantic Avenue 6th Fl, Ste 624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester, NJ 08733</td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlantic City, NJ 08401-4806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 732-657-8076</td>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: (609) 345-1359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 732-657-2456</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: (609) 345-1365</td>
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**Housing Counseling—Ocean**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>S&amp;F Plaza</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 Rt. 37 East Suite 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toms River, NJ 08753</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tel: (732) 288-2614</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax: 288-2619</td>
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**OCEAN TIDES**

**O.C.E.A.N., Inc.**

**P.O. Box 1029**

Toms River, NJ 08754

732-244-5333 (Tel)

732-349-4227 (Fax)