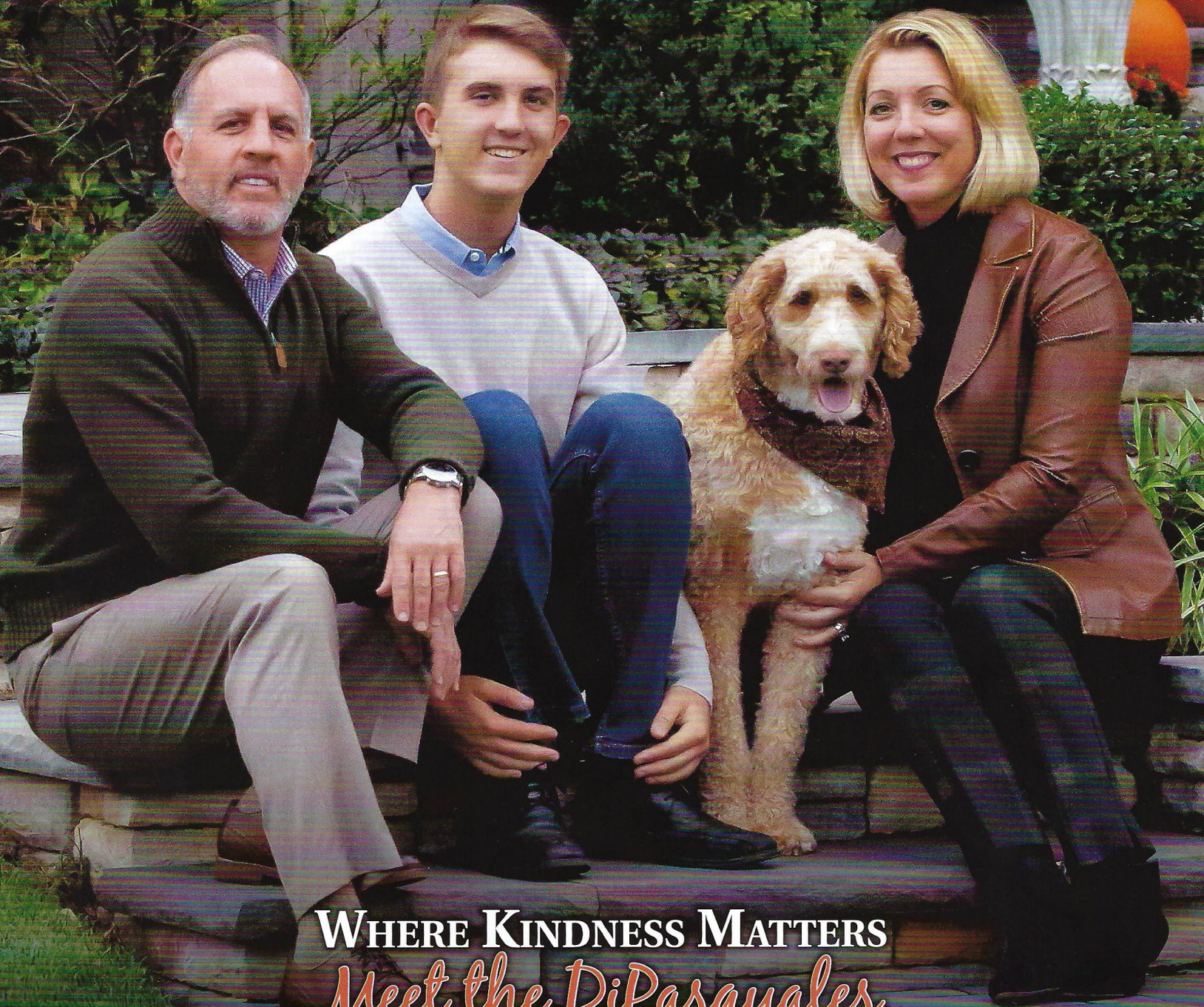


MOORESTOWN

Living



WHERE KINDNESS MATTERS
Meet the DiPasquales
AT HOME IN MOORESTOWN

MOORESTOWN *Living*

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Have feedback, ideas or submissions?

We are always happy to hear from you!

Deadlines for submissions are the 5th of each month.

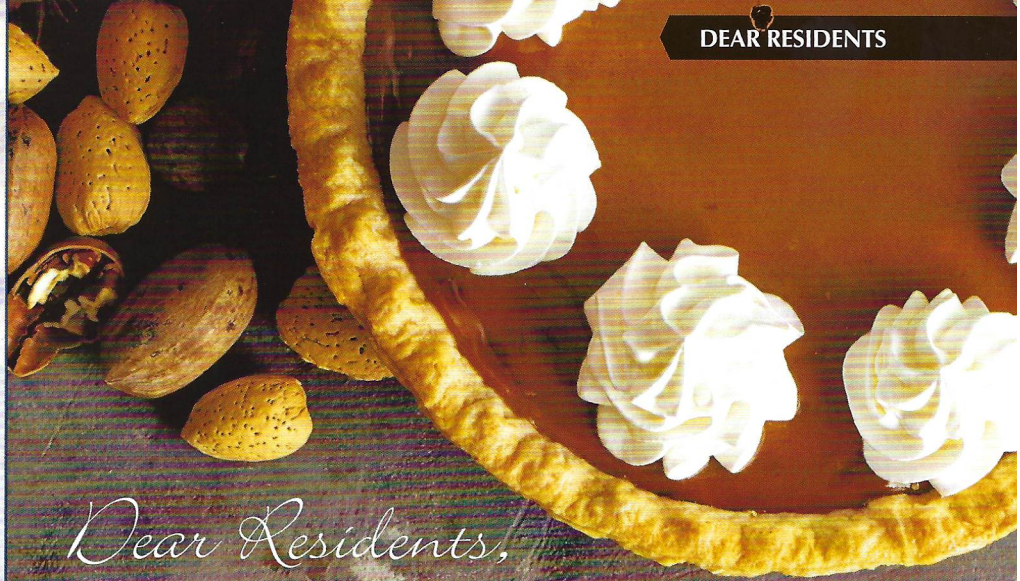
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Dear Residents,

It has been so much fun strolling up and down Main Street, meeting neighbors and making new friends! Though many events have been cancelled due to COVID-19, there are still good things happening in town. This month, the month of THANKSgiving, we introduce you to the DiPasquale family—Henry, Nancy and 15-year-old Colin—who truly understand the meaning of giving. Read their story, then read about their many acts of kindness in our Nonprofit Spotlight. If you're inspired to volunteer for any of their organizations, reach out to them at www.localacts.org

And then there are the young men of SJ Boys Read—a non-profit organization that encourages young boys to read—collecting books in their brightly painted bin, located outside a different Moorestown business each month. Visit their website at www.sjboysread.org to find reading recommendations by age and genre, as well as other educational links to find the right book for you.

As we head into the holiday season, a Moorestown cook, Meredith Thompson, shares a healthy fall meal, as well as advice on how to create a charcuterie board. We look forward to more recipes to come as we head into December! Just let us know if you have one to share. We love our cooks!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we're giving thanks for all the lovely people we've met along the way, even masked and distanced, as we seek interesting stories to tell, photos to snap, and events to talk about. Stop to chat next time you see us on Main, and tell us your story!

Happy Thanksgiving to you all.



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Giving Added Meaning to "Love Thy Neighbor"

BY PATTI O'BRIEN

When Nancy DiPasquale invites people into her home, she treats them as honored guests. Her husband Henry and son Colin, 15, do the same. They have, by their own admission, taken the "Love Thy Neighbor" verse to a whole new level.

Their story began in Belmar, NJ, where Nancy and Henry were next-door neighbors. They met in 1996 and married three years later. "I married the girl next door," says Henry.

Henry had graduated from Trenton State College (now TCNJ) with a BS in May, 1987 and owned a successful business in Monmouth County (in Central Jersey—yes, it exists!) for 30 years. Now semi-retired, he manages residential and commercial real estate with his wife.

Nancy graduated from Seton Hall with a BA in 1990, and an MA in 1994. She worked for her alma mater for 10 years after graduation, moving onto an Executive Director position at a nonprofit adult school and tv production facility, which eventually led to 15 years working parttime in the broadcast industry as a local television host and commercial voiceover artist on the Cablevision/Optimum network. And just last year, she became a guest speaker for a Mass Communication class at Rowan College at Burlington County.

CHOOSING MOORESTOWN

In 2015, the DiPasquale family moved into the Northwest Estates section of town. Like many residents, they came to Moorestown for the school system and the sense of community they so valued.

"We had narrowed down our choices to three towns in New Jersey, but after learning there was a kindness initiative in Moorestown, it tipped the scales for us," Nancy explains. "Holly Meyers ran a book club in town at the library then, and the week we moved into town they were just beginning a prolonged study of the book *The Power of Kindness* by Piero Ferrucci. That's how we knew for sure we were in the right place!"

Nancy met regularly with the like-minded group members who shared their own kindness ideas with one another, eventually leading to several members seeing through

their own visions of "bringing more kindness and connectivity into the community of Moorestown."

One member, Karen Reiner, brings neighbors together through community events planned by her own nonprofit: MooreUnity.

"Although it's been five years since moving to Moorestown, we remember that feeling of living somewhere unfamiliar like it was yesterday! Central and South Jersey may as well be different states. Eventually it all fell into place, meeting people, finding our way. But if it weren't for the kindness of others along the way, it could have been much less pleasant," Nancy says.

Because of that, Nancy volunteers for the **Welcome New Families Committee** at school each year, to welcome, assure, and connect with new families in the district. This year will be her fourth year giving back as one of the 'Welcome Ladies' for Moorestown Township Public Schools.

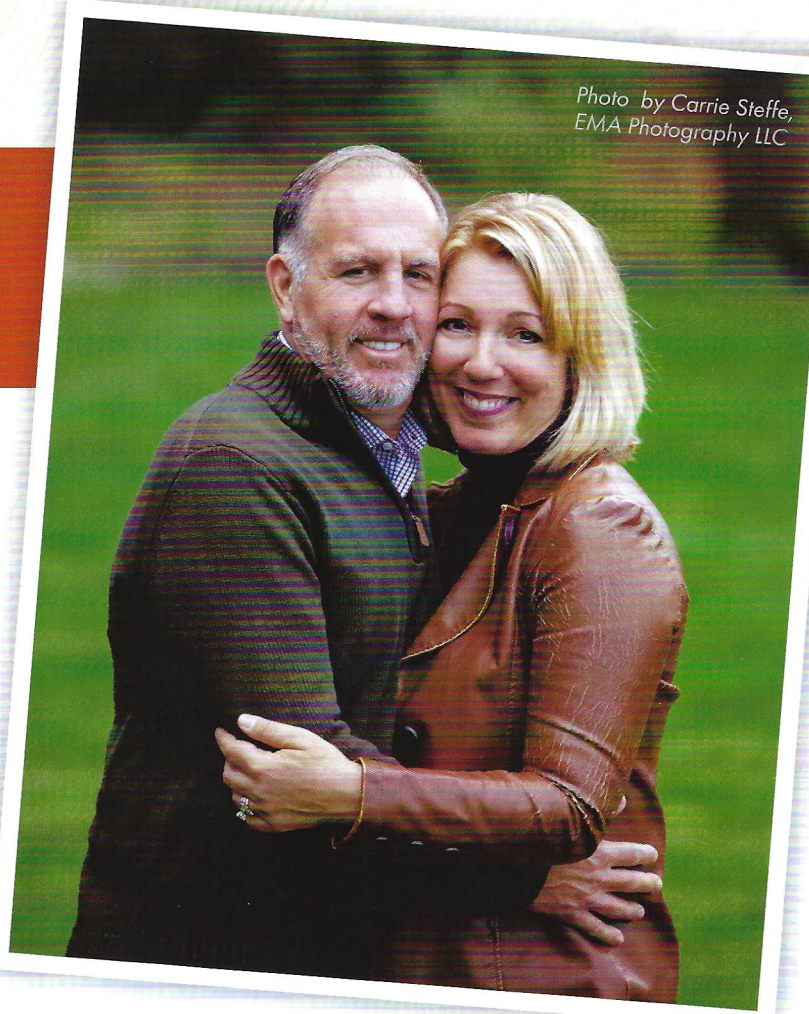
DISASTER BRINGS OPPORTUNITY

When Super Storm Sandy hit the Jersey Shore in 2012, the family felt for those devastated by loss. So, they gathered some supplies to donate, then asked their town of Cream Ridge, along with surrounding areas, to join them. Supplies poured in, and someone donated the use of a tractor-trailer and driver. The community helped their neighbors-in-need by filling an entire 53-foot tractor-trailer with disaster-relief supplies in one weekend at a local park.

"We called it the *Tractor-Trailer Challenge*," explains Nancy.

Fast forward to 2017, when Hurricane Irma devastated the Florida Keys.

Photo by Carrie Steffe,
EMA Photography LLC



The DiPasquale family knew they had to resurrect their town-wide supplies drive initiative, so they put their new town to the *Tractor-Trailer Challenge™*. Moorestown rose to that challenge, not just once in 2017, but again in 2018 when Hurricane Florence hit North Carolina. Both times, teen volunteers and their families filled a 53-foot truck with supplies from Moorestown residents, schools, organizations, and businesses. (www.TractorTrailerChallenge.org)

In awe of the neighborly response to help others, and Mother Nature's break from nearby hurricanes in 2019, the DiPasquale family put forth their other philanthropic ideas and created the *Local Acts of Kindness Foundation™* on November 13, 2019—World Kindness Day. *Local Acts of Kindness Foundation™* brings neighbors together to show kindness to others through various town challenges and local programs. (www.LocalActs.org) Henry, Nancy, Colin, and even Tad (the dog), are very active in each of the organization's programs. (Get the full story in the Nonprofit Spotlight on page 10.)

THEIR HAPPY PLACE

"We have always had a love for the beach. As they say, *once you live at the beach, you never leave*. For us, it's true. After building a house to start our family in Cream Ridge, NJ, we still came back to our Belmar condo on the weekends," says Henry.



Colin plays piano for seniors at Care One at Harmony Village



The super-secret vow renewal, Harvey Cedars

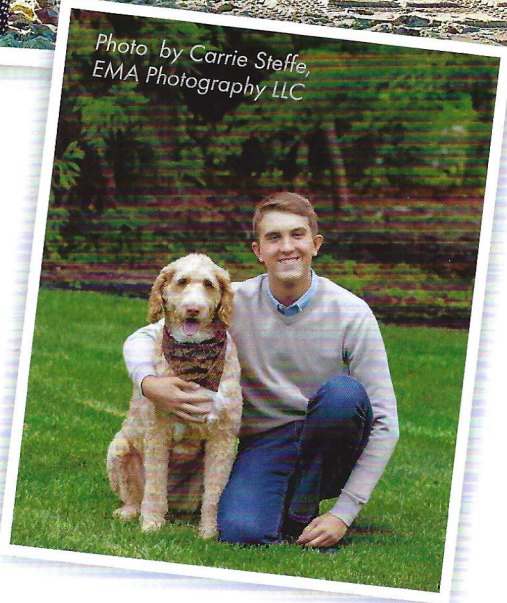


Photo by Carrie Steffe, EMA Photography LLC

"The three of us have always spent lots of time in the ocean together each summer, boogie boarding throughout the years. More recently, our son started surfing, and Nancy and I play tennis when we can. And since selling the business, I have more time to play golf!

"Once Tad, our 80-pound Goldendoodle, arrived, he was too big to hide from the condo association, and we needed a yard, so we sold the condo in 2014 and bought a house with a yard in Harvey Cedars on Long Beach Island, where we now spend our summers outdoors with family and friends."

The couple celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary there last October, with a super-secret vow renewal.

"It was just the two of us and our son, Colin, along with a photographer and violinist. We told no one until it was over, which totally added to the excitement and romance of it! The weather was just as perfect as it had been 20 years ago on our wedding day when we'd sailed out of the Atlantic Highlands Marina to the Statue of Liberty and back with all of our wedding guests aboard the *Cornucopia Princess*," recalls Nancy.

"Two great days by the sea we will never forget!"

Winters see the family chasing the sunshine by flying south, or getting away for quick ski trips to Pennsylvania or Vermont. And although they're from Central Jersey, they've always followed Philly teams, and take an annual trip to a Phillies game.

"Our family tradition has always been watching the Super Bowl together at home with an unreasonable amount of homemade nachos. It was a real thrill to witness the Eagles win the Super Bowl as South Jersey residents," Henry says.

THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE

In 2005, Henry and Nancy welcomed their son, Colin. Now 15, Colin is a sophomore at Moorestown High School, a member of the

Student Council, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Theater, and Moorestown Crew.

Colin has been playing piano since 2011. Last summer, he created a program called *Senior Serenades™*, where musical teens donate their time and talents entertaining local seniors at assisted living facilities, playing piano and various band instruments. (www.SeniorSerenades.org)

"I've been playing piano for my grandmother for years and she always seems to enjoy it. So, I figured if MY grandmother enjoys it, maybe other grandparents would enjoy it! Two summers ago, I tested it out by volunteering to play piano at an assisted-living facility near Long Beach Island, then launched *Senior Serenades™* in Moorestown that fall," says Colin.

Senior Serenades™ recently received national attention when Colin and fellow *Senior Serenades™* musicians were featured on The TODAY Show to celebrate Colin's efforts in creating a virtual version of his program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby expanding his program nationally, entertaining senior citizens throughout the country who are cut-off from their loved ones during quarantine.

EVEN THE DOG'S A STAR

Tad is the family's seven-year-old Goldendoodle, born on November 13, 2013, World Kindness Day. It was all too fitting, then, for the family to launch their nonprofit on that same day in 2019.

Tad plays his part in the family's efforts, playing host on their *Rescues Speak™* program, where each member of the DiPasquale family gives a voice to local rescue dogs and cats online in search of their fur-ever homes. (www.RescuesSpeak.org)

And though this is Tad's first magazine cover, it's not his first magazine appearance. He can also be found on page three of the 2019 EP Henry landscaping catalog,

standing in front of the DiPasquale home. He can be found on Facebook at #TadTheDood, and he's very excited to share the *Moorestown Living* cover and Family Feature with his family.

LOCAL ACTS OF KINDNESS

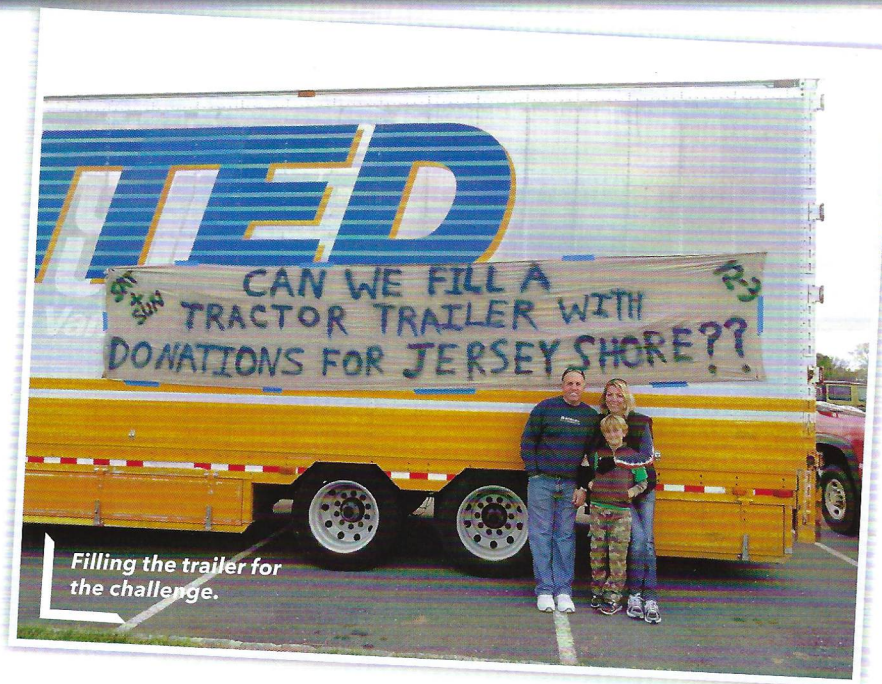
BY NANCY DIPASQUALE

DOING GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Local Acts of Kindness Foundation™ is a New Jersey non-profit organization born from the pure joy and excitement of engaging in acts of kindness, and the desire to organize more of them in our South Jersey community of Moorestown. We have found that people readily and joyfully participate in organized acts of kindness within their own communities, especially when suggested as a group challenge. Our mission is to inspire, encourage, and bring neighbors together for the purpose of practicing kindness towards others within their own communities and beyond.

We achieve this by creating local Kindness Challenges™ and fostering kindness to all. In our Kindness Therapy™ program, neighbors share their personal journeys through cancer, offering connection and understanding to current local chemotherapy patients via anonymous emails/letters. Once received, we make them accessible to patients at Virtua Samson Cancer Center. If you would like to anonymously share your personal cancer experience and insights in writing, you may email us at LAOKfoundation@gmail.com or send via U.S. mail to LAOKF/Kindness Therapy, PO Box 224, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

Our Trim-A-Tree Challenge™ brings co-workers together to help others by challenging them to decorate a holiday tree in five days with \$5 gift cards and words of support for local families in need. A table top tree is dropped off to your place



of business and picked up five days later. If you would like to bring the Trim-A-Tree Challenge™ to your Moorestown office this holiday season, please email us to reserve your tree at LAOKfoundation@gmail.com.

Senior Serenades™ features young musicians entertaining the young-at-heart! Musical teens donate their time and talents playing for local seniors at assisted living facilities: *Connecting Generations Within Their Own Communities, Through Enter-TEEN-ment™*. The virtual version of Senior Serenades™ is free to all assisted living residences nationwide by signing up at www.SeniorSerenades.org.

Rescues Speak™—*Giving Our Shelter-Pet Population a Voice, and a Better Chance at Finding Their Fur-Ever Homes™* Even Tad, our Goldendoodle, plays his part in our family's nonprofit organization. Each member of our family lends their voice to local rescue dogs and cats in online videos, giving them personalities in an effort to find their fur-ever homes. Visit www.RescuesSpeak.org to hear them speak.

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MAKING KIDS SMILE ONE BOOK AT A TIME

BY CAROLINE MEGILL

SJ Boys Read is partnering with Moorestown business owners to collect new and gently used books for **BookSmiles**, a local organization that distributes books to kids in need. So far, InTown Auto, Moorestown Theater Company, and Moorestown Hardware have graciously agreed to host collection bins, and we have already collected hundreds of children's books! We hope to have a different business host our collection bin each month! If you'd like to participate, please contact us at sjboysread2018@gmail.com.



Standing in front of Moorestown Hardware are (l-r): Larry Abrams of BookSmiles, Julie and Pete Bender of Moorestown Hardware, Mayor Nicole Gillespie, MHS Senior Connor Megill of SJ Boys Read, MFS Sophomore Shaan Doshi of SJ Boys Read, and MHS Sophomore Ryan Casinelli, the artist who painted the collection bin.

Local Acts™ Studies of the brain prove that a simple act of kindness positively affects not only the performer and recipient, but all witnesses to the act. If you have received, witnessed, or performed a kind act in Moorestown, kindly tell us! We'll post it on our site under Local Acts.

We believe that people are inherently good at their cores, and desire to help others in need. And though they do not always know how to help others in a crisis beyond 'thoughts & prayers,' we have found that they will jump at an opportunity to do so when presented with one.

We created Local Acts of Kindness Foundation™ to inspire them to do just that.

For more information, contact us at www.LocalActs.org.



COMPASS RE

113 W Oak Avenue, Moorestown

\$575,000 | 5 BD | 2.1 BA | 1,992 SF

This beautiful 5 bedroom 2.1 bath home in the heart of Moorestown is a must see. The first floor offers a cozy living room with a fireplace, a formal dining room, a beautiful and bright updated kitchen with an open floor plan to the family room. Up stairs you will find the spacious master suite that includes a private bath and walk-in closet, 3 more bedrooms and a hall bath with radiant heated floors. On the third floor there is the 5th bedroom with plenty of privacy. Off the family room is a set of french doors that lead to a beautiful landscape backyard. It features hardscaping and lots of privacy that is great for entertaining. There is also an oversized shed with 2 sections, 1 for gardening and 1 for a workshop.



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