

Area

Habitat Bergen Youth United selected to receive grant

A group of students volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County (Habitat Bergen) will receive a \$4,000 matching grant from State Farm® in support of their construction and fundraising efforts to create affordable housing in Bergen County. The youth volunteers are participants of Habitat for Humanity's Youth United program and are required to raise a matching amount of \$4,000.

Youth United mobilizes young people, ages five to 25, to fully fund and build a house with their local Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Students learn leadership and teamwork skills and gain a better understanding of their communities and the need for simple, decent, and affordable housing. All students are engaged in fundraising, education, and advocacy activities, while those over 16 help with home construction.

"Habitat Bergen Youth United thanks State Farm for their generosity and support. We can't wait to live up to the requirements set forth by the matching grant through our various spring fundraising events," said Habitat Bergen Youth United President Blu Frankel.

Members of the Habitat Bergen Youth United Group attend schools throughout Bergen County. They host advocacy events to promote the mission of the affiliate, and conduct special fundraisers to support the construction effort.

"Habitat Bergen has received State Farm grants throughout the years and this year's grant will help us to support the construction of another home for a family in Bergenfield," said Habitat Bergen Executive

Director Jacey Raimondo. "The Youth United Group has done an outstanding job of creating awareness and fundraising of the affiliate's mission and Bergen County families who qualify for affordable housing will benefit from their efforts."

The Youth United program is one of the many programs Habitat International has to engage youth in Habitat's work. In addition to the ongoing support State Farm offices provide to local Habitat affiliates across the United States, State Farm has served as the national corporate sponsor of Habitat for Humanity's youth programs since 2007.

"Habitat for Humanity's commitment to providing families with safe, decent, affordable shelter aligns with State Farm's commitment to helping to build safe, strong, and better educated communities," said State Farm Senior Public Affairs Manager Jen Alvarez. "State Farm is committed to maintaining the vibrancy of our communities by assisting the Bergen County affiliate and supporting community revitalization in New Jersey."

State Farm NJ Community Specialist Jennifer Young added, "It's about neighbors helping neighbors. State Farm continues to bring communities together. When you put the community first, good things happen."

The goal of Habitat Bergen is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the face of the earth by working in partnership with people in need. Using volunteer labor and donated funds and materials, Habitat Bergen builds or rehabilitates simple, decent houses and sells them to low-income families at cost, but with no

interest added. Habitat Bergen is a people-to-people partnership, which joins all of us together regardless of race, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status. That partnership begins with the homeowner families (partner families). Habitat Bergen is not a giveaway program, but a joint ven-

ture in which those who benefit from the housing ministry are involved in the work at various levels. They help with the construction of their own home, as well as the houses of their neighbors.

Contact Nicole Murray at NicoleM@habitatbergen.org or (201) 457-1020.

1.15%
APY

2-Year CD*
(\$500 minimum balance)

1.20%
APY

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1.00%
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