



ROBOTS COMPETE...Members of Westfield High School's Robotics team, who will host the FTC FIRST Tech Challenge on Saturday, November 29, include: front row, from left, Mike Carides (vice-captain), Neil Makhija (captain), Spencer Fishman (captain), and Alistair Kapadia (vice-captain); center row, from left, Saranya Turimella, Christine Rogers, Fiona Gillespie, Trisha Mukhopadhyay, Rachael He, Anna Glueck, Linzy Rosen, and Ashley Rosen; back row from left, Joe Detrano, Jack Mulvanerty, Jordan Hindes, Eli Zidel, Thomas Han, Hank Sacco, and Vivek Sreenivasan.

Westfield High School to Host Robotics Competition

WESTFIELD – On Saturday, November 29, Westfield High School will host the Westfield Wrangle, a FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Competition. FTC is designed for students in grades 7 to 12 to compete head to head, using a sports model. Teams design, build, and program their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams using sound engineering principles. The robot is programmed using a variety of languages. Awards are given for the competition as well as for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments.

The Westfield Robotics Team has two robots competing in this year's tournament season. Advisors for the team are Westfield High School Science teachers Valentino Scipioni and Susan Marie Terra. The local November meet is the first time Westfield High School will host this event. A total of 24 teams will compete in matches which will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until approximately 3 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. There is no charge for admission.

Team Captain and WHS Sophomore Spencer Fishman explained, "We started building our robots in September through the engineering and design process. We tested them out, and made revisions and are assembling them now so we will be ready for the November competition." Mr. Fischman noted that the teams meet every week from Monday through Thursday after school.

Team member Trisha Mukhopadhyay, a freshman at Westfield High School, said, "I want to contribute to the team as much as I could. I learn how to build things as well as how to program."

The contest is one of several opportunities for the teams to compete for a spot in the April 2015 World Championship to be held in St. Louis, MO. For more information about the program visit the FTC FIRST Tech Challenge Website: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc> or contact Valentino Scipioni, vscipioni@westfieldnj12.org for details regarding the Westfield High School November event.



HELPING THOSE IN NEED...Freshmen Raj Raval of South Plainfield, Ovidio Chavez of Elizabeth, Eduardo Martinez of Scotch Plains, Brittney Wilson of North Plainfield and Sana Mansuri of Edison help Dawn Francavilla, Director of Student Life at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, load a cart with boxes for delivery to Hands of Hope and Starfish, the two charities for which the Upper School collected items during the holiday food drive.

Books and Bagels Event to Be Held at Franklin School

WESTFIELD – The Franklin School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) invites the public to a three-day Book Fair from Thursday, December 4 through Saturday, December 6.

This Scholastic Book Fair fundraiser will feature Franklin's second annual "Bagels and Books" event on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., where visitors can enjoy coffee and a breakfast bite to eat and make a donation to benefit the All for Books campaign. Scholastic will match monetary donations

with a donation of up to one million books from Scholastic Possible Fund, which distributes books to children in need through organizations such as Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc., and Kids in Need Foundation.

Book Fair hours are: Thursday, December 4, 2 to 5 p.m. (Grand Opening and Golden Ticket Event); Friday, December 5, 2 to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The school is located at 700 Prospect Street in Westfield. All purchases benefit Franklin School.

Project Wet Training Workshop Set for Trailside

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced that Trailside will offer "Project WET," a teacher-training workshop for adults, ages 18 and older, on Thursday, December 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

"Trailside's popular teacher-training Project WET workshop offers a unique opportunity to learn innovative ways to bring awareness and understanding of our environment and aquatic resources to students," said Freeholder Chairman Christopher Hudak.

In today's society, water is often taken for granted. This workshop will provide the necessary tools, resources and lessons for teachers to utilize in the classroom to teach our future leaders about the importance of water in everyday life. Formal and informal educators are invited to join a certified Project WET facilitator for a day of interactive, educational and hands-on activities focusing on water as a valuable resource.

Participants will work cooperatively to discover the properties of water while earning six NJDOE

teaching credits. Each person will receive a Project WET curriculum and activity guide with more than 90 interdisciplinary activities and lessons, teacher-tested and classroom-ready for K-12 students. Lessons are correlated to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. New Jersey Project WET is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management Division and the New Jersey Audubon Society.

Pre-registration is required for this workshop. Space is limited. Walk-ins will be welcomed as space permits. The fee is \$20 per person. Light refreshments will be served during morning registration. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch.

For information about the Project WET teacher-training workshop or upcoming programs and special events at Trailside, please call (908) 789-3670 or visit www.ucnj.org/trailside for a complete fall brochure. Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside and is a service of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



HOMEFIRST THANKS...Donors, staff, community partners, and religious leaders came together to recognize and honor individuals from different communities in Union County who have served families in need in extraordinary ways in their civic and private lives at Homefirst's Evening of Thanks. Pictured from left are: Ellen McGovern Executive Director of Homefirst, Marilyn Ryan, Karen Moore, Lorraine Wearley, Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni and Rabbi Joel Abraham.

Homefirst Held Successful Evening of Thanks Event

KENILWORTH – More than 280 people attended Homefirst's second annual Evening of Thanks at Galloping Hill Golf Club in Kenilworth on October 30. Donors, staff, community partners, and religious leaders came together to recognize and honor individuals from different communities in Union County who have served families in need in extraordinary ways in their civic and private lives. Guests at the event enjoyed a cocktail hour with music performed by students from the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) followed by dinner and a live and silent auction. Homefirst premiered their original video entitled "Voices of Our Youth," which highlights the success stories of three teens who have benefited from the services that Homefirst offers to vulnerable families and youth throughout Union County. Casey Woodruff, Homefirst Board President, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and Rabbi Charles Kroloff of Westfield served as the Honorary Event Chair.

Ellen McGovern, MSW, LCSW, Executive Director of Homefirst, remarked, "It was wonderful to have so many people come together in the spirit of giving to support our mission to end homelessness. We at Homefirst are grateful to our many friends - donors, volunteers, elected officials - whose support allows us to continue to serve the homeless families in Union County."

Award recipients included Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni of St. James the Apostle Parish Community in

Springfield, Marilyn Ryan of The Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield, Lorraine Wearley of the Unitarian Church in Summit, Rabbi Joel Abraham of Temple Sholom in Scotch Plains, and former Homefirst Board President, Karen Moore of Grace Episcopal Church in Plainfield. Sponsors of the event included Prudential Financial Inc., Bramnick, Rodriguez, Mitterhoff, Grabas & Woodward, LLC, Ellen Catlin, TAPinto.net, Amy Yin Interiors, Steven and Marybeth Lapham and Casey and Priscilla Woodruff.

Established in 1986 in Plainfield, Homefirst delivers comprehensive solutions to homelessness by providing transitional and permanent housing, homeless prevention assistance and family support services. Working with a diverse coalition of partners, including community groups, religious congregations, foundations, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies and volunteers, Homefirst is a leader in Central New Jersey in assisting families experiencing homelessness and in preventing homelessness. Homefirst uses innovative national models to give families the tools and the resources they need to overcome adversity and develop self-sufficiency. The agency builds strong communities—one family at a time. For more information on Homefirst please visit Homefirstinc.org.

See it all on the Web!
www.goleader.com



ORIGAMI HELPS COMMUNITY...Members of the Origami Club at Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield are pictured with Westfield United Fund Executive Director Deirdre Gelinne. The students sold their origami creations and donated the money to the WUF to benefit the local community. Pictured, from left to right, are: Emily Engel, Katie Palmer, Cottler Vierschilling, Greg Oliveri, Kaiyang Zhu, Richie Vasquez and Kevin Arndt.

Jefferson Students Donate Origami Sale Funds to WUF

WESTFIELD — The Westfield United Fund (WUF) recently received a donation of \$155 from a group of fourth graders at Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield who call themselves The Origami Club.

As Cottler Vierschilling explained in a letter to the WUF, he and some of his friends at school wanted to do something to help people in the community. They also had become interested in origami, the Japanese art of paper folding, and enjoyed learning to make a variety of shapes.

The students decided to form the Origami Club and began building an inventory of different shapes, following the instructions they found on YouTube. They made about 350 swans, stars and other shapes, which

they sold to classmates at Jefferson School, along with lemonade. Cottler's parents suggested that they donate the proceeds to the WUF, which helps children, senior citizens, low-income families and people with physical and psychological disabilities.

WUF Executive Director Deirdre Gelinne revealed that this was the first time the WUF has received a donation from a kids' club. "I think it's wonderful to see a group of kids who care about others in the community take action to help. They're a great example of compassion in action!" she said.

To learn more about the Westfield United Fund, go to westfieldunitedfund.org.

UC Senior Amisial Achieves Perfect French SAT II Score

SCOTCH PLAINS — Senior Edgie Amisial, class of 2015 of Roselle earned a perfect 800 on the SAT French Subject Test. She attributes her success to Union Catholic's World Language Department.

"Madame Ciringione has been my French teacher since freshman year," Ms. Amisial said. "She has taught me many of the things I know about French language, grammar, and culture; she has been an extremely supportive and knowledgeable teacher and mentor to me."

She is primarily applying to schools in New York City and her top choices are NYU, Fordham University, and Marymount Manhattan College. She intends to major in Communication Arts and hopes to study abroad in France during her college years. Beyond college, Ms. Amisial would love to work in design and/or editing.

For 50 years, Union Catholic High School has earned its reputation as one of New Jersey's foremost Catholic secondary schools. For information, visit unioncatholic.org.



PERFECT SCORE...Union Catholic High School Senior Edgie Amisial earned a perfect 800 on the SAT French Subject Test. She attributes her success to Union Catholic's World Language Department. Ms. Amisial is pictured in front of Union Catholic High School.

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