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The Young Leaders from Bergen County's United Way completed renovation of the Franciscan Community Development Center in Fairview.

NEWS



APR 23, 2009 5:05 PM

## Bergen County's United Way Young Leaders put muscle to work for charity

By the time they had finished painting the newly renovated Franciscan Community Development Center of Fairview, their Live United T-shirts were splattered in paint.

Calling themselves Young Leaders, the founding group of entrepreneurial young professionals, are setting an example for their peers with their charitable good works. The mission of the group is to build philanthropic leadership among the new generation of Millennials.

Young Leaders is affiliated with Bergen County's United Way and sponsored by M&T Bank. It offers young people the chance to be informed about pressing local needs, as well as exclusive opportunities for leadership development, service projects and social service gatherings. The group, which already has an online presence on the social networking site Facebook, welcomes college students and young professionals willing to help others less fortunate.

"We did something meaningful today," says Rachel White, 23, an MBA student at Fairleigh Dickinson University, who coordinates the group. "The Franciscan CDC works tirelessly to help the poorest of the poor. The few hours of work we put in made a big difference to them. Who knows how long it would have taken to finish the work by themselves? There are hundreds of people who depend on them, everyday; they have so much more important work to do."

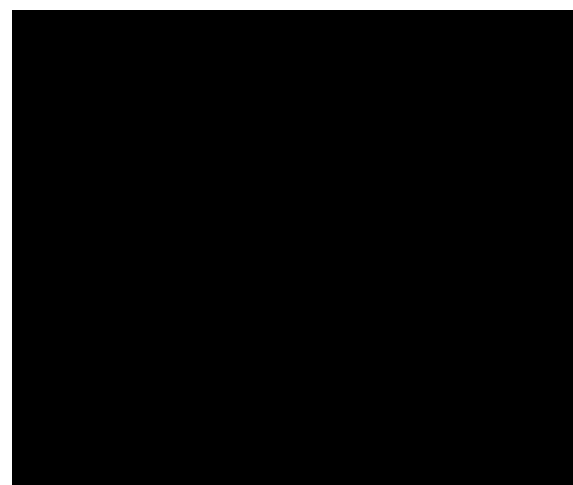
The project was chosen by the Young Leaders because of the essential services provided by the Franciscan CDC to day labor and immigrant families in Fairview. The agency operates a broad range of health and human services, as well as education and training programs. A food pantry operated in partnership with the Center for Food Action is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For M&T Bank and Bergen County's United Way, Young Leaders is an opportunity to ready a new generation of informed philanthropists.

"M&T Bank Corporation values the importance of philanthropy and supports the vital work of Young Leaders," says Ira Brown, regional market manager. "We believe strongly in taking an active role in the communities we serve and are proud of our charitable support for Bergen County's United Way. We are making an important investment in the future by helping to nurture a new generation of philanthropists. Their fresh perspective and renewed energy will ensure that good works carry forward."

Tom Toronto, president of Bergen County's United Way, adds, "This is an exceptional group of young people who I am confident will continue to bring about positive change in our community."

For more information or to join Young Leaders, contact Rachel White at [rwhite@bergenunitedway.org](mailto:rwhite@bergenunitedway.org) or call (201) 291-0619.



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College offering free screenings today  
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4:50 PM APR 22, 2009  
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Cars for Homes program aims to recycle end-of-life vehicles into affordable housing  
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