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(201) Magazine, November 2009

NEWS

Women United in Philanthropy awards \$70,000 grant

Women United in Philanthropy hosted its 5th Annual Fall Gathering at the Story Hill in Hackensack with Mavis Nicholson Leno as their featured speaker.

"Five years ago, we began as a small group of women committed to using our own money and talents to lift women in Bergen County out of poverty," says Susan Mitchell Abate, chair of the Grants Committee. "Since then we have given \$275,000 and changed the lives of countless women and an immeasurable number of children in our corner of the world."

This year the group awarded its \$70,000 grant to Women's Rights Information Center of Englewood. The organization serves as a hub in Bergen County for women to find resources, information, and training and support as they move toward economic self-sufficiency. WUIP funds will be used to launch a specialized transition and training program for servicewomen returning to northern New Jersey following deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. The program includes the partnership of Fairleigh Dickinson University and Women Lawyers in Bergen County.

Grant funds will be used to provide services in three areas: academic preparedness for those who plan to take advantage of the GI Bill Education Subsidies; career services for those wanting to seek and obtain employment; and legal assistance for those facing child custody and family law issues.

"This is a timely and compelling project," says Jennifer Natale, a founding member of Women United in Philanthropy. "More than 2000 men and women returned to New Jersey in June from active duty and the adjustment has been extremely difficult. Many have lost the jobs they left behind to the crisis in our economy and have returned to families that have come apart."

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