Ocean Inc AC JazzFest - 9.14.19

Please join O.C.E.A.N., Inc. on September 14, 2019 for the AC JazzFest at the Hard Rock Casino ETESS Arena in Atlantic City. Doors open at 6 pm - Showtime is 7 pm. Sponsorship opportunities are still available by calling (732) 244-5333 Ext. 910. Please visit Ticketmaster at https://acjazzfest.com/tickets for information and enter to win FREE tickets to the event.

Artists for the event include four-time Grammy Nominee Saxophonist & Composer Boney James, Multi-Platinum Saxophonist & Flautist Najee, Summer Storm, Norman Brown-Lindsey Webster, Pieces of a Dream and Joe Bataan. Congratulations to our July Ticket Giveaway Winner Taryn Bath of Coffeeville, PA.

See you at the Fest! ♦

1st Bergen Federal Credit Union at Ocean Inc.
Grand Opening
October 24, 2019 - Ribbon Cutting at 10 AM

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Inside this Edition
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Congratulations to Gina DeBartolo of Toms River, NJ the Ocean Inc. Kiosk/Survey 2nd Quarter Contest Winner of a $50 Shoprite Gift Card! Ms. DeBartolo entered the contest on the last question of the on-line survey after enrolling in the O.C.E.A.N., Inc. First Time Homebuyer Program.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. has 17 Kiosks at agency locations spanning three (3) counties. Hand-held IPADS and direct survey intake via desk-top computers are used by agency field staff and subgrantees.

As a result of the technology, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. meets Organizational Standard 1.3 and increased survey intake by 60% as customers have steadily become familiar with the Kiosks.

Grand Opening of the 1st Bergen Credit Union at Ocean Inc. – October 24, 2019

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L-r: Ocean Inc. Maintenance Manager Chris Rosario inspects the work performed by Dan Venezio in preparation of the new Credit Union.
O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Supports - The Links, Incorporated Arts Facet

Linking Art Through Transformative Programming through funding

The Links, Incorporated consists of nearly 15,000 professional women of color in 289 chapters throughout 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the United Kingdom. It is one of the nation’s oldest and largest volunteer service organization of concerned extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

The Links, Incorporated Arts Facet was installed on February 28, 1948 and can be traced to the cultured co-founder Margaret Roselle Hawkins. Her innate artistic talent, discovered at a young age, earned her a four-year scholarship to the Women’s School of Design, later known as the Moore Institute of Art. Her passion for creative expression later led to her appointment as an art teacher, and helped give root to the establishment of The Arts facet in 1964 at the 14th National Assembly.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. works with the current president Lynda V. Browne-Kidd and members of the Atlantic City (NJ) Chapter who work diligently to make the name “Links” not only a chain of friendship but a chain of service. Collectively the Atlantic City Chapter members contributed more than 1,400 annual documented hours of community service with a 70-year legacy and a positive impact to those served in Atlantic City through civic, educational and intercultural activities.

The Arts Facet is guided by the following national goals in planning and implementing arts programming:

- To enhance the knowledge and appreciation of youth and adults for the fine arts;

- To give The Links, Incorporated another area of programming which highlights and educates the community on the contributions of the African American artists;

- To increase in the purchase and commissioning of work from noted artist; and

- To create greater opportunities for exposure to and experience in the various art forms.

The “Links” partner with museums, symphonies, arts councils, educational institutes and corporations in order to support art programs and create and support opportunities for educating minority youth in the arts and presenting and supporting performances by youth and accomplished professional artists in a diversity of disciples.

Since 1968, the Atlantic City (NJ) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has hosted an Art Show in Atlantic City to celebrate Black History Month. Each year the Atlantic City (NJ) Chapter presents an annual Art Show to the community with local artists as well as renowned artists. The exhibit includes an Artist Reception with a presentation from the artist exhibiting, as well as a Student Art Reception where the artist interacts with local students held at the Stockton University Arts Garage in Atlantic City.
O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Staff Attend the New Jersey Weatherization & Home Energy Assistance Training Conference in AC

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Weatherization/Home Energy and Administrative staff attended the 2019 New Jersey Weatherization and Home Energy Assistance Training Conference in Atlantic City over the summer. This was an opportunity for O.C.E.A.N., Inc. staff administering the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Home Energy Assistance (HEA) Program to come together to receive updates, training, and feedback on policies and standards that help them provide invaluable services to income-eligible clients.

Engaging technical and program-related sessions were provided by local and nationally recognized instructors.

In addition to the informative sessions at the conference, the Conference Carnival was featured as a fun team building exercise for New Jersey WAP and HEA professionals with plenty of fun prizes.

Manchester Head Start - Rock Garden and Magician

The Rock Garden was created by the children of the Manchester Head Start Center. The purpose of the project was to remind each child that they ROCK.....They are UNIQUE...They are SPECIAL.....They are ONE OF A KIND....The children and their teachers are very proud of their creation.

Dennis Thomas the Magician volunteered his time at the Manchester Head Start Center to teach the children about insects and Spring through magic and laughter. The children loved him.
Congratulations to Valery Arango, a student from Manchester Township High School who was selected to receive the $3,000 O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Board of Directors Scholarship. Ms. Arango is an honor student with a 95 GPA at Manchester High School and a former O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Head Start student. It is both exciting and heartfelt for agency staff to see one of our students achieving higher education, knowing that Head Start made a difference in her education and life.

Ms. Arango was accepted at four (4) very prominent Universities however she chose Thomas Jefferson University to begin her career in Health Sciences B.S: Pre-Medical Imaging and Radiation Science. In addition to her academic achievements, Ms. Arango also received the “Spirit of the Hawk” award received for outstanding sportsmanship, vibrant team spirit and great leadership in the sports of Volleyball and Basketball. She also received a “Certificate of Gratitude” for her support and participation in the Manchester Township High School Veterans Recognition Ceremony and volunteered with the Manchester First Aid/ Rescue as an EMT Cadet and was a Teen Volunteer at the Ocean County Library.

On behalf of the Ocean Inc. Board of Trustees and agency staff, we wish Ms. Arango the best of luck in her future.

Ms. Sandra Arango (Mom), Channell Wilkins, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. President/CEO and Valery Arango

Ms. Sandra Arango, Valery Arango and Fred Rush, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Board of Trustees Vice Chair
O.C.E.A.N., Inc. is the administrator for the Ocean County Consortium’s First Time Homebuyer program. The program brings together County government agencies with many area lenders including O.C.E.A.N., Inc. in a cooperative effort to increase the opportunity for homeownership among the county’s low to moderate income households.

Since the inception of the program in 1997, O.C.E.A.N., Inc. has had 540 closings. In 2019 alone, the agency had seven closings, three approvals for closings and three residents in que for closing.

Individuals and families interested in the program should contact Mark Lamela at (732) 288-2614 Ext. 100 or email him at mlamela@oceaninc.org.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Mad Hatters Party

Mad Hatters Tea Party for the classroom moms at OCC. Each Head Start mom was provided an accordion hat to decorate with their child and bring back to class. In addition, one of the mothers who owns her own salon was gracious enough to volunteer her services and braid all the girls hair.
O.C.E.A.N., Inc created a new Summer Youth Employment Program. The purpose of the program is to provide youth with meaningful first-time work experiences with the opportunity to learn about career possibilities and enhance future employability skills. While working their selected department, youth are gaining necessary skills to succeed in the workplace such as utilizing office equipment, filing, data entry and more.

Upper Photo: New youth employee Logan Watson discusses job expectations with Ms. Debra Lynn Keefer, Toms River Home Energy Site Supervisor and Leslie Perna, Human Resources Assistant. Right Photo: New youth employees Tainn Garcia and Ivanali Garcia met their employer Heather Martinho, Site Supervisor of the Child Development Center at OCC.

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Home Energy Staff Participate in Utility Assistance Day with Community Partners

O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Home Energy, JCP&L, New Jersey Natural Gas and NJ SHARES staff partnered for a free Utility Assistance Day held at the Seeds of Service in Brick over the summer.
Thirty-five (35) students from disadvantaged families enrolled in the O.C.E.A.N., Inc. Summer Literacy Program are participating in learning activities, field trips and other events that are all part of the fun summer experience at the Child Development Center at Ocean County College in Toms River and the LEAP Center in Lakewood, New Jersey.

The focus of the Summer Literacy Program is to help alleviate the summer slide learning loss by providing summer learning and enrichment activities for children with academic need who are entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2019.

All students also participated in a field trip to the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Kitchen and received a free lunch compliments of Jon Bon Jovi. The status of implementation and funded learning activities included Journaling – Teachers read a story to the children and for reinforcement, once the story was complete, the children return to their journal and wrote about the story.

Each day the students participate in a "morning message" as all children wrote and review the alphabet and letter sounds and participate in rhyming activities along with many other learning activities.

The agency family literacy-focused summer program enabled O.C.E.A.N., Inc. to meet important child development needs, while providing a safe and nurturing environment for children to grow and learn and will minimize the risk of school failure for participants by assisting them in developing positive, healthy attitudes toward reading and learning.

The program was made possible from a grant by the United Way of Ocean and Monmouth Counties.

Children in the Summer Literacy classroom recite the pledge each morning at the Ocean Inc. Child Development Center at Ocean County College.
Credit Union Grand Opening

DON'T MISS THE
1st Bergen Federal Credit Union
@ O.C.E.A.N., Inc.
GRAND OPENING
CELEBRATION!
Thursday, October 24, 2019 • 11AM to 4PM
40 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ 08754

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Ocean Inc Hosts the 2019 NJ Southern Regional ROMA Training

Created in 1994, ROMA is a comprehensive performance-based management system which provides a framework for continuous growth and improvement among more than 1000 community action agencies nationwide and a basis for state leadership and assistance toward those ends. ROMA is a complete management and accountability process focused on the results achieved through an agency’s activities.

Collectively, participants from O.C.E.A.N., Inc. and their subrecipients, NORWESCAP and Affordable Housing Alliance worked on seven (7) modules and learned about the rich history that led to ROMA. They followed the ROMA Cycle by creating mission statements, learned about the community assessment process, developed results oriented plans and implemented a plan, created a scale using scales and matrices and built on a logic model through the day long training.

Ocean, Inc. STEM Literacy Fatherhood Initiative Program held at the Child Development Center at Ocean County College

The Ocean Inc Head Start class at the Child Development Center at Ocean County College participated in a STEM Literacy Fatherhood activity. Each team (father/child) were sent home with one of the Ocean Inc. curriculum fairy-tail books to read for a week. The objective was for the father to read with their child, then use simple household items (supplied by the agency) to build a scene from that story. As indicated in the attached photo, the program was a huge success. Each team worked hard to meet project objectives and truly enjoyed the activity!
Ocean, Inc. has begun construction at the Pine Beach site. Within one building, six (6) affordable housing units will be built to support income eligible disabled veterans.

Eligible veterans will receive Project-Based Vouchers through NJDCA. All applicants must first go through Vetwork to determine eligibility since they are providing the social services plan for the veterans.

Mobility Component - The six (6) project based vouchers for Pine Beach have mobility. Once the tenant is in the unit for one year, they can request to move with that voucher. At that time the voucher is converted to a tenant-based voucher. As that occurs, Ocean Inc. will request and NJDCA will replace the voucher for a new tenant at Pine Beach.

*Participants in the upper left groundbreaking ceremony photo were as follows:*

- Channell Wilkins, Ocean Inc. President/CEO
- Dan Pires, Catel Construction Firm
- Ocean County Freeholder Virginia E. Haines
- Pine Beach Mayor Lawrence W. Cuneo
- Pine Beach Council President Barry Wieck
- Pine Beach Councilman Robert Badesa
- Former Pine Beach Engineer John Mallon & Wife
- Ocean Inc. Board Chair - Anita Woolery
- Ocean Inc. Board Member - Mark Rushwald
- Ocean Inc. Board Member/Policy Council - Glynis Wray
- Ocean County Planning - Robin Florio
- Vetwork (Support Service Provider) - Jesse Violante
- Ocean Inc. Attorney Stephen Smith
- Yezzi Associates - Dan Sernotti