



Community Heroes!

Our community thanks all its heroes for their generosity of time, spirit, determination and love in meeting the COVID 19 challenge.

Please email the Chamber if you have something you would like to have included on this list (mail@sussexcountychamber.org). We believe all of these positive messages and examples of the community coming together and working together gives us all encouragement in this crisis.

Fresh Pickins' – Sandyston: offering free washable sidewalk chalk to the public to write messages of encouragement, as they did in their parking lot, for those feeling lonely during the coronavirus social distancing period.

Perona Farms – Andover: Perona Farms invited members of the community in need of a meal to pick up a "ready to heat" option on Thursday, March 19, from 2 PM to 5 PM. The culinary team prepared shrimp & sausage gumbo, beef stroganoff with pasta, a chicken dish, and a vegetarian option. While currently closed for large events, some members of the Perona Farms team worked to safely serve their friends and neighbors. Perona Farms is working closely with clients to reschedule upcoming events.

Sparta HS Students, Jamie Rubin & Bhavika Dawar: A virtual food drive is underway, thanks to two Sparta High School juniors, who will be collecting GoFundMe donations to purchase groceries and benefit the Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Milk Street Distillery – Branchville: In a generous show of support to the Frankford Township Fire Department and other area First Responders, they have produced and distributed Hand Sanitizer for their use.

Residents Angel & Rusty Bellis – Branchville: Sent Starbucks refreshments to the entire Radiology Department at Morristown Medical Center to keep them uplifted during this pandemic.

TJ's Pizza - Franklin: Coordinated with Lyrae Bifano, of the Senior Housing Apts located on Mill St, Franklin, to distribute their "Senior Stimulus" gift certificates to every single resident in the

building. TJ's Pizza wants the Seniors in our community to know that they are thought of and valued.

Newton Police Department: Members of the Newton Police Department, as well as officers from other Law Enforcement agencies who belong to Sussex County PBA Local 138, took the time to thank caregivers at Newton Medical Center, who are taking care of everyone else. Words of encouragement and a cart full of snacks and goodies were presented from the parking lot.

New Jersey company GTBM Info-Cop-East Rutherford: headed by Rich Picolli and George Petropoulakis, the company generously donated a 55 gallon drum of Diamond Disinfectant, to the Sparta Police Department. It's a professional grade cleaner "used in institutions where disinfection and sanitization is of prime importance."

Skydive Sussex – Sussex: The parachute Riggers of Skydive Sussex of have taken on the task of sewing masks for our first responders to aid in the virus containment effort. Their Riggers love to sew and are helping make sure they have enough fabric to make as many masks as they can.

ServPro: The SERVPRO team supported Blue Ridge Rescue Squad's efforts and those of other volunteers by providing Decon services. All 4 of their ambulances and their Rehab bus were provided Decon services courtesy of the SERVPRO team.

Capitol Care – Wantage Group Home: Thanks to the creativity of Direct Support Professional, Karen, the group home is making masks to donate to our local hospitals.

Newton High School Robotics Team, Thorlabs, and Gravity Designworks – Newton: Collaboration has begun using 3D Printing Technology, to help make much needed personal protective gear face shields to get out to the community, hospitals, doctors, urgent cares...wherever it is needed.

Branchville/Frankford Resident Cat Chez: Cat started the Facebook page **Mask Makers Unite Sussex Co/Warwick NY**, A public forum to unite sewers and those that can offer supplies. At times when it's hard to get things shipped, stores are closed, they need anyone with fabrics, elastics, pipe cleaners, stabilizers to come forward. A place where even if you don't sew you can cut fabric into the right size and donate to someone nearby to construct masks.

JCP&P, A FirstEnergy Foundation: will contribute \$2M to local food banks and hunger centers, as well as [United Way](#) agencies throughout our communities to support vital health and human services organizations during the COVID19 health crisis.

Laddey, Clark & Ryan, LLP – Employees at Laddey, Clark & Ryan, LLP donated various food items to the Sussex County Food Pantry Weekend Bags. With the combined efforts of LCR and those of the community, the Sussex County Bar Association was able to deliver 344 bags!

Sussex County YMCA – Hardyston: Offering many free classes via their Facebook page

Sparta Helps Healthcare Heroes: Melissa Prestipino and Erica Hertzberg started this GoFundMe page stating: “Our community of Sparta is so thankful for all of the tireless efforts of our local healthcare providers who are working and risking themselves during this COVID-19 crisis. We are raising money to take care of these local healthcare hero's needs to help them have as little stress and to have as most support as possible. Money will be spent to help all of them get needed PPE such as masks, gowns and surgical caps, food for healthcare staff at our local medical centers and facilities.”

Fredon Volunteer Fire Department: The Fire Department is seeking children within Fredon Township that are having a birthday soon. They know kids cannot have a birthday party due to the COVID-19 virus.

Through their Facebook page, they are asking parents to let them know when the child's birthday is and their street so they can brightly light up the street and fill it with sirens and say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the Birthday Kid.... no personnel will leave the vehicles. They are asking to have child waiting out the front or at the front window. They will confirm a time with you. They are putting some smiles back in our community!

Simply Unique Baskets by R-Montague and Mosquito Hunters-Vernon teamed up to surprise the front line hospital workers at [Newton Medical Center](#) and surprising them with a special thank you gift basket.

Spavia Day Spa-Sparta: Spavia members have donated **94** of their monthly services with many donating 2 or more! These Spavia Sparta services will go to health care workers, emergency responders, police officers, and the like. Owner Leslie Martin pledges to cover the gratuity for those services.

Prime Dress Design LLC-Augusta: The company made masks and sent out to various healthcare professionals. The masks have a steel wire bridge inside to shape it to your face and a layer of breathable water-resistant material in between the cotton for more protection.

Sparta High School, Pass It Along, Angela DeLuccia and SSBC Theatre: Donated a large assortment of snacks, goodies and soft drinks to the hardworking staff at local hospital staff who are on the front line helping with this pandemic.

Photographer Ashley Schneider: has found a way to stay busy while also helping out community members in need during the coronavirus pandemic. Schneider sets up a brief photo session on a family's front porch — never coming within 10 feet of the group for health safety reasons — and through the studio she owns, Renee Ash Photography, emails the family their portrait free of charge. In exchange, families are asked to make a donation of food or

money to Project Self Sufficiency to help the organization during this especially difficult time for the community.

Because Schneider cannot come close to the families she photographs, each session begins with her sending a text message to the group, or using the old-fashioned method of honking her car horn, so the family will congregate on the porch. The photographer will then snap a few shots before she is on her way, maintaining a safe distance and being careful not to spend too much time at each assignment.

“I’m not at their house longer than three or four minutes,” Schneider said. “It’s a real quick ‘hi, bye’ situation.” “It’s just basically a way to come together as a community and show that we’re all in this together,” Schneider said.

Father John’s Animal House – Lafayette: Emergency and Medical Personnel Pet Boarding. If you are an emergency or medical professional with pets, Father John’s has launched an emergency program where they will board them to allow you to focus on providing the highest quality of care to your patients. They will focus on providing the highest quality of care to your pet.

Individuals Neil & Gail Nederfield, Lina Cronwell, Donna Fergeson. Barbara Thomas: Making masks and sending them out to area hospitals. This is an entire network of people making masks, sourcing materials, and transporting. Bravo!

Losma Inc – Sparta: Donated 5600 yards of filtrated materials to the hospital for mask and PPE usage. Hospital is completing scientific testing for feasibility. Also has made available **free of charge material to make face masks** to keep you, your family and your community healthy. Make for yourself or donate to first responders. Link here for how to make a mask <https://www.atlantichealth.org/patients-visitors/donate-volunteer/donate-supplies-covid-19/make-facemask-help-covid-19.html>.

To arrange to pick-up material e-mail afaber@losmausa.com.

Branchville Rotary: Received \$25,000 from Rotary International to give prepackaged foods to those in need in the local community.

Crystal Springs Resort – Hardyston: donating fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and other food items from their refrigerators to the Hunger Coalition.

Under My Wing Avian Refuge-Wantage: If you may become ill or are in need of temporary boarding (FEES are waived in the wake of COVID- 19).For those of you that have a need to relinquish a bird. We are here for you too! Please IM or call my Cell 862-268-3059 If you like, please visit our Relinquish page or Other Services to see all we can offer www.undermywing.org.We assure your bird the same care as we always have. Your bird will be in quarantine as is our standard procedure. We offer live video visitations, emails, picture sharing as well, although we encourage visiting with your bird, during this period of Coronavirus

we cannot have you come in but we will resume regular visitations with your bird once the distancing order in NJ is lifted.

Compass U Educational Consulting:

One of the most important steps your teen can be taking RIGHT NOW is to participate in VIRTUAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EVENTS. I'm reaching out to share two FREE resources!

1. Virtual College Exploration Week - Session registration opens TODAY, 4/6. The event will be held from 4/20-23.

2. Access to my mini-course, Make the Most of a Virtual College Admissions Event, normally \$29, for free. This week only!

Mamma Mia's Pizzeria-Hamburg: Mamma Mias and Performance Foodservice have teamed up Easter Sunday. They will be making and delivering Easter dinners family size to local police dept., local first responders , and some families who have lost their jobs because of the epidemic or have sick ones in the family. Seeking info on some families in need. They can deliver on Easter morning to those who need a pick-me-up.

Veritas Christian Academy-Sparta: Using their 3D printer, they are making face shields for Newton Medical Center.

Pam Vreeland of Realty Executive Exceptional Realtors-Sparta: Donating use of 3D printer to make face shields for Newton Medical Center.

Mira Plastics-Newton: making face shields for Newton Medical Center.

Sussex County Charter School-Sparta: Using their 3D printers to help make face shields for Newton Medical Center.

Sussex NJ Macaroni Kid-Sparta: is offering FREE RESOURCES to our community during this difficult time and offering FREE advertising to local businesses if you are interested! Contact Danielle Barris at danielleb@macaronikid.com.

Pope John High School-Sparta: The Catholic Academy of Sussex County recently lent its 4 3D printers to local healthcare workers in Sussex County to make protective face shields! Students helped make the shields, which were put to use at Newton Medical Center.

Ocean State Job Lot-Sparta: Job Lot is offering mask fabric for FREE. They have enough fabric for "one million masks". They ask that you go through the check out line so they can monitor the amount of fabric/users taking advantage of the offer. They also ask that users share their experience with mask making (with photos if possible) by email at Insiders@osjl.com or on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter and use #OSJLMaskFabric.

GYMGUYZ-Vernon: GYMGUYZ has FREE Facebook live workouts every Friday at 2pm in April!

Sandyston Resident Adreanna Fick: offering free service to shop for county residents.

Sussex Borough Rec Committee: had to cancel their Spring Celebration but the Easter Bunny agreed to stop by Sussex Borough and take a ride through town in a hot rod. Bunny will NOT be stopping nor handing out items, will be waving from a vehicle. They would love to see your decorated windows! Cut out egg shape from construction paper and paint/decorate and hang in your window or front door.

Saturday April 11, 2020 11am and will be starting in Clove Acres Lake community.

Wayne Del Vecchio from Starbucks-Sparta-sent refreshments and snacks to the health care workers at Saint Clares Hospital.

Walmart-Franklin: generously donated disinfecting wipes and other tools to the Franklin Borough Police to help officers stay safe and able to respond to the needs of Franklin residents!

Drew from the Franklin Car Wash: took extra time and care in thoroughly sanitizing Franklin Borough's police cars to keep officers safe and on the road patrolling Franklin to protect and serve its residents.

Shop-Rite of Franklin: provided ReadIMasks to Franklin Borough Police law enforcement officers to keep them safe and able to serve Franklin's residents!

Mama Cee's Pizzeria in Franklin: provide a pizza lunch to the Franklin Borough Police to thank them for all they do for the community.

Frankford Township Fire Department: will be following the lead of their brother and sister firefighters in the area by providing a "Birthday Parade" to children whose birthday parties have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Children should be Frankford residents turning 12 years old and younger.

Healthy Thymes Market-Vernon: showed their gratitude to Vernon's first responders for your dedication to keeping us safe by offering complimentary fresh coffee/tea, muffins, cookies and ciabatta rolls made with love. Our entire team appreciates your sacrifices from the bottom of our hearts. With a strong sense of community, we will persevere.

Vernon Township School District: offering storytime with the Superintendent on Facebook.

Glenwood Pochuck EMS: organized a great shout out to Michelle Shine who is on the front line every day at Morristown Hospital. VERNON PD showed up, fire trucks, all the ambulances, it was amazing!

