



Sussex County Chamber of Commerce

LEAP OF KINDNESS DAY GUIDE



2024 is a Leap Year...

What Will You Do With Your Extra Day?



2024 IS A LEAP YEAR
02.29.2024
AN EXTRA DAY



#LeapOf KindnessDay

DO SOMETHING KIND
FOR SOMEONE ELSE



2024 is a Leap Year, and this means we all get one extra day on Thursday, February 29, 2024.

What will you do with your extra day?

Our idea: use your extra day to do something kind for someone else and encourage everyone in your workplace, family, and community to do the same.

Leap of Kindness Day was invented by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce in 2016, when dozens of Chamber members and hundreds of their employees donated time, talent, and treasure to support local nonprofits, seniors, first-responders, health care workers, Veterans, animal shelters, etc. In 2020, more than 200 communities in the US, Canada, and Ireland participated in Leap of Kindness Day, and our hope is that more will do so in 2024.

To help you be as kind as possible on February 29, 2024, we compiled this list of requests from local Chamber organizations that could use your help!

Whatever you choose to do, be sure to share your act of kindness on social media and tag us to help spread the word about Leap of Kindness Day!

@SussexCountyChamberofCommerceNJ

#LeapOfKindnessDay



B.A.R.K.S.

Byram Animal Rescue Kindness Squad

Thursday February 29th
12-5:00 availability (can be later)

13 Hampton House Rd, suite 1,
Newton New Jersey (Hampton Plaza)

Call 973 300-3185 or Email info@barksinc.com

Either project would only require 2-3 volunteers and a few hours:

Option 1

We have a garage storage cabinet, wall mount, to be attached to a concrete wall. Also, have a small stainless-steel shelf we need attached to an inside sheet rock wall. We do have a drill and supplies for these. We could also use help with a few handyman odds and ends such as caulking, touch up painting repairing exterior door sweep etc.

Option 2

Assistance with cleaning and organization of the shelter interior, exterior cleanup and placement of a tarp over the dog run. Our shelter is only a 750 square foot facility, so either project would be such a help to keep our facility clean and pleasant for our rescued cats and dogs.

Our volunteers work so hard to give them a helping hand would be so appreciated. Thank you!



DASI

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services, Inc.

Thursday February 29th

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Stillwater Township Community Center

931 Newton-Swartswood Road, Newton

DASI Invitation Mailing Assistance

Any time that you can give to help stuff 3000 envelopes would be greatly appreciated.

Corporate groups are more than welcome!

Bagels and coffee will be provided, as well as a pizza lunch.

Please contact plavnicky@dasi.org to sign up!

Thank you!



Family Promise of Sussex County

Thursday February 29th

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Northern New Jersey Veteran's Memorial Cemetery

75 North Church Road

Sparta, NJ 07871

Family Promise of Sussex County is committed to supporting veterans in our community.

We will be doing a cleanup at the Northern New Jersey Veteran's Memorial Cemetery on February 29 from 1-3:00.

If you'd like to participate, please call Dawn at 973-579-1180 x1025 by February 23 to register.

If you are unable to attend but would like to support our work helping veterans and others facing a housing crisis, please visit our website, <https://familypromisesussex.org/> to make a donation or find other ways you can help!



The Gunnar J. Bigley Foundation

The Gunnar J. Bigley Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization that provides scholarships to local high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in law enforcement, ROTC, armed services, and/or any other careers that serve our community. We also support local law enforcement by funding programs and promoting community service. Our nonprofit could not function without the support of the community.

Needs:

- Monetary Donations are always welcome!
- Shoprite/Walmart/Amazon Gift Cards
 - Our Amazon list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lis/WVC4NC1DI08?ref_=wl_share

- Sponsors for 2024 to help fund events
- Donations of food and drink items for specific events

Donations:

Sneaker collection- new and used sneakers can be dropped off at Alpha Fitness, Newton Recycling Center, Philly Pretzel Factory- Hackettstown, and Atilis Fitness in Panther Valley
Contact us if those locations do not work for you.

Contact: Donna Bigley and Rachel Pier, Founders

Email: gjbmemorialscholarship@gmail.com

Website: gunnarjbigleyfoundation.org

Instagram: @gunnar_j_bigley_foundation

Facebook group : GUNNAR J BIGLEY FOUNDATION

Linktree : <https://linktr.ee/gunnarjbigleyfoundation>

Thanks so much!



National Alliance on Mental Illness, Sussex County Affiliate

Become a member by visiting

<https://nami.org/About-NAMI/Join-NAMI>

and selecting NAMI Sussex as the affiliate.

Your membership helps ensure that life-saving information, support and education are available for the millions of Americans who need NAMI.

- \$60 per year for a Household membership that includes all members of a household living at the same address
- \$40 per year for a Regular membership which is an individual membership for one person
- \$5 per year for an Open Door membership for an individual member with limited financial resources

Or, to make a donation, send a check made payable to
'NAMI Sussex' to

NAMI Sussex, P.O. Box 652, Sparta, NJ 07871

and write "Donation" in the Memo field.

Thanks in advance for your generosity!

NAMI Sussex is an all-volunteer 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that provides support, education and advocacy throughout Sussex County, NJ on behalf of individuals and families affected by mental illness.



Peters Valley School of Craft

Option one:

Volunteer at Peters Valley Gallery!

Get your painting clothes on and help us put a fresh coat of paint in our exhibition gallery. Each year we host 6 exhibitions including our popular High School Student Exhibition (featuring work from kids in our local regional high schools), Making Matters Exhibition (featuring work from our guest instructors), and GlassRoots Fellowship Exhibition (showcasing the work made by Newark students during their time on campus). This fresh coat will help us give future exhibiting students and artists a clean and professional setting to show and sell their art!

12:00-3:00pm availability

RSVP to volunteer to Gallery@PetersValley.org

Option two:

Shop at the Peters Valley Gallery! All items are handmade by American based artists and proceeds from your purchase go directly to the maker! **Use code LEAP29 on February 29th, for 29% off your entire purchase.**

Visit www.PetersValleyGallery.org or shop in person at 19 Kuhn Rd, Layton NJ 07851 from 10am-5pm



Sussex County Habitat for Humanity

Your donation will make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. It will provide families with a safe and stable place to call home, give children a place to grow and thrive, and help to build stronger, more vibrant communities.

We are asking for your support in the form of a donation to help us build homes for families in need. Your contribution will be put to work immediately, helping to fund the construction of new homes and the renovation of existing ones.

We understand that times are tough, and we appreciate any support you can provide. Your donation is tax-deductible, and we will provide you with a receipt for your records.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to our community. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Please mail your check to:

Sussex County Habitat for Humanity
82 Mount View Street
Newton, New Jersey 07860

Or donate online at <http://sussexcountyhfh.org/>



Walkill Valley Rotary

Thursday February 29th

6:00 PM

Crystal Springs Resort in Hardyston NJ

The Wine Cellar

\$125.00 single ticket

\$200.00 couple

Great wine and food!

50/50!

Limited seating

Email WalkillValleyRotaryNJ@gmail.com for tickets

Uniting to serve our communities in a positive way. Serving
Boroughs of Franklin, Hamburg, Ogdensburg, Sussex &
Townships of Hardyston and Wantage.



The Weekend Bag Program Inc.

Thursday February 29th

4:00 - 8:00 PM

The Weekend Bag Program Warehouse

248 Brighton Road, Andover NJ 07821

Item collection and help put Weekend Bags together.
Any time that you can give to help is greatly appreciated!

Corporate groups, scouts, and clubs are all welcome.
Not with a group or club? That's OK--we would love to have you
join in and help us help our students in Sussex County struggling
with this need.

Contact theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com to sign up.

Please bring the following items to help us fill 800 Weekend
Bags (this is what we give out each month). Together we can
help a student in need not go hungry over the weekend.

Pasta Noodles

Pasta Sauce (no glass)

Box Mac n Cheese

Fruit cup

Water bottle

Juice Boxes/Pouches

Kid Founded, Kid Run

Working to end juvenile food & hygiene insecurity in

Sussex County

35,000 Weekend Bags and counting!



Foodshed Alliance
with the Walkill River Watershed Group
and Halsted Middle School

Thursday February 29th
Mackenzie's Preserve & Pine Street Park
Clean Up Event

** Private Event **

Please contact the Foodshed Alliance for details at (908) 798-0697



Looking for other ideas?

Check the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce website to connect with a non-profit in your community:

SussexCountyChamber.org, then click on
Membership Directory

Prefer to make a donation? View our non-profit wish lists at

SussexCountyChamber.org, then click on
COMMITTEES > NON-PROFIT > NON PROFIT WISH LISTS

...or come up with your own idea! Any act of kindness is a good one. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

CELEBRATE LEAP OF KINDNESS DAY IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Explore these thoughtful Leap of Kindness Day ideas:

1. Organize a drive for essential items and personally deliver the collected goods to a local charity on February 29.
2. Express gratitude to first responders by delivering meals or snacks to your local fire, police, or EMS station on Leap of Kindness Day.
3. Dedicate February 29th to enhancing a public space – a park, trail, or playground – by cleaning, beautifying, or fixing amenities in need.
4. Encourage your children to write and deliver heartfelt thank-you notes to educators, custodians, bus drivers, and others on February 29th.
5. Reach out to local care facilities, hospitals, senior or youth centers, and agencies assisting those with unique needs. Collect and deliver items tailored to their specific requirements on Leap of Kindness Day.

