

Friday, May 3, 2024

## **Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park Partners with Covenant House to Support Vulnerable Youth** **Empowering at-risk youth through safety, education, and community care**

ASBURY PARK, NJ – [The Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park](#) has announced a significant partnership with [Covenant House Asbury Park](#), focusing on aiding children and youth in need, particularly those facing homelessness and trafficking.

Dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children and youth, the Kiwanis Club has long held a laser focus on education, literacy, food and clothing insecurities, and general health and safety. The new partnership was recently celebrated at a volunteer appreciation event.

"Our relationship with Covenant House is quite special. Their priorities align closely with ours – offering a safe haven to youth facing homelessness and human trafficking," said Steve Everk, President of the Asbury Park Kiwanis Club. "By the end of this year, volunteer hours will surpass 250 and financial donations will exceed \$2,000—largely from the Club's EAT HERE NOW fundraisers," concluded Everk.

The partnership significantly supports Covenant House's Rights of Passage (ROP) Program, which provides a secure living and learning environment for youth ages 18-21. The program empowers these young individuals to develop independence through managing their meals, saving money, and acquiring essential life skills.

Stephanie Williams, Service Manager at Covenant House NJ, praised the club's contributions, highlighting the dedication of Karen Harrington, a key club member. "Karen Harrington tirelessly performs and coordinates all services provided by the Kiwanis Club," said Williams. This includes bedroom refurbishments, monthly pizza parties, birthday celebrations, landscape maintenance, and ensuring building supplies are available.

The Kiwanis Club's efforts were honored by Covenant House managers and directors at the volunteer appreciation event, underscoring the importance of the partnership.

The Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park, a non-denominational, volunteer-driven 501(c)(4) organization, aims to empower communities and improve the lives of children, believing all children deserve a nurturing environment to thrive in. The club, originally established in 1918 and rechartered in 2020, continues to work towards this goal.