

Local Red Cross event raises funds for programs and services

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LONG HILL TWP. – Former Mayor Gina Genovese, chair of the Fund Development Committee of the Colonial Crossroads Chapter of the American Red Cross, was among nearly 200 people gathered on the front lawn of the chapter’s house in Summit on Saturday, Sept. 26, for a “Toasting of the Reds and Whites” wine tasting fundraiser.

“I have been so impressed with the critical work that has been done by the Colonial Crossroads Chapter during the past year,” said Genovese. “As chair of the Fund Development Committee, I am always looking for ways to engage our community and to educate them about how we are funded. We receive no government money and very little support from the United Way, so we need residents and businesses to donate generously in order to keep our programs and services strong.”

Honored at the event was former chapter board member and Madison Borough Council President Jeannie Tsukamoto.

Among the other guests at the event were: Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-11; state Sen. Tom Kean Jr. and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, both R-21, and Senator Tom Kean, Jr.; and Summit Mayor Jordan Glatt and Madison Mayor Mary-Anna Holden

“I’m delighted that so many friends were able to join us this evening,” said Christy Hodde, chapter executive director. “I’m especially grateful to our many corporate sponsors including C.R. Bard, Keller Williams Realty and Investor Savings who helped make this a memorable occasion during which we were not only able to honor Jeannie Tsukamoto’s contributions but also share the important work done by this chapter every day.”

In addition to her Board responsibilities, Tsukamoto was a volunteer with the chapter’s Disaster Action Team which responds to residents in crisis 24/7.

She received a proclamation from Bramnick praising her volunteerism and her commitment to giving back to the community.

“Disasters can happen anytime, anywhere and to anyone,” said Tsukamoto. “The Red Cross responds every time, everywhere and for everyone.”

The Disaster Action Team responded to fires in both towns during the past year and sheltered more than 30 individuals affected by a fire in a multi-unit home in downtown Summit last winter.

Among the members of the team are two women from Long Hill Township, Emergency Services Director Barb Chestnut Flynn, and active team volunteer Irene Sacks.

The chapter erected a simulated disaster shelter on the lawn of the chapter to share with guests what a typical American Red Cross shelter would offer in the event of a disaster.

In addition to Long Hill Township, the Colonial Crossroads Chapter serves the residents of Berkeley Heights, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, East Hanover, Florham Park, Madison, New Providence, Springfield and Summit. For more information, visit www.ccnjredcross.org

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