

# NEWS

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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For immediate release

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### Leadership Program Studies Law and Public Safety

The 30 members of Bergen County's first community leadership program recently spent a day learning about the people and organizations that work to maintain the safety of Bergen County residents and businesses.

Bergen LEADS, sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, is a program that focuses on preparing local leaders to tackle the unique challenges and embrace the opportunities in Bergen County.

Since September of 2009, the class has met monthly to dissect issues, debate viewpoints and get a first-hand look at Bergen County's infrastructure. Additional seminars include Government, Education, Healthcare, Environment and Diversity.

The Law and Public Safety seminar began with a presentation by Bergen County Sheriff Leo McGuire, describing the challenges of protecting a dense, highly-populated area in close proximity to a major city.....(any more?)

The class then broke into groups and visited three sites: Bergen County Jail in Hackensack; Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute in Mahwah, and the Paramus Police Department and Training Facility, where they learned about the leadership principles that guide law enforcement personnel in their work, as well as get insight into the training and day to day challenges facing law enforcement officers. The day concluded with a presentation about the problem of Suburban Gangs, given by Det. Sgt. First Class Ron Hampton of the N.J. State Police and Sgt. Hector Carter of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office.

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The Bergen LEADS seminar year will conclude with presentation of special group projects and a graduation where the class of 2010 will welcome the new Class of 2011, which is currently being selected via an application process.

The application form for the class of 2010-2011 can be downloaded at [www.bergenleads.org](http://www.bergenleads.org) and is due by April 2. Men and women who live or work in Bergen County can apply by filling in a simple individual profile form and provide essay answers to specific questions. The class of 30 participants will be announced in June, and the monthly seminars will begin in September.

The tuition to participate in Bergen LEADS is \$2,000 per person, and scholarships will be available for those with financial need.

Additional information about how to apply for the program, and about financial aid, is available by calling Amanda Missey 201-489-9454, Ext. 119, or e-mail [amissey@bergenvolunteers.org](mailto:amissey@bergenvolunteers.org).

Founded by the Junior League in 1966, the mission of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating direct service volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

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