

Lehigh Valley Chosen by President Biden to Highlight Economic Progress

By Paul Muschick

LEHIGH VALLEY - President Joe Biden chose the Lehigh Valley as the location to celebrate America's entrepreneurial spirit and its connection to economic growth.

During his visit on Jan. 12, Biden toured Emmaus Run Inn, South Mountain Cycle, and Nowhere Coffee Co. in Emmaus and spoke privately with the businesses' owners.

"Starting a new business is an act of hope," the President said in public remarks following the tours. He added that after his discussions with the Lehigh Valley entrepreneurs he felt there was a "real, genuine sense of optimism."

"I've always believed if the middle class does well, everybody does well, the wealthy do very well, and the poor have a ladder up," he said.

As the growing Lehigh Valley's Gross Domestic Product repeatedly has set records in recent years, median household income has risen and poverty has declined. Median household income is higher than for Pennsylvania and the U.S. Poverty rates are lower than the state and nation.

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14th Annual Festival of Trees Raises OVER \$88,000 For Local Non-Profits

By Brittany Powelson

WASHINGTON, NJ - During this season of reflection, Rossi Auto Group, Abilities of Northwest Jersey (Abilities), and Warren County Habitat for Humanity (Warren County Habitat) are excitedly celebrating the success of the 14th Annual Festival of Trees that was held on December 7th, 2023. Attendees of the event came from far and wide to celebrate the beauty of the holiday season, to reconnect with peers and to give back to these highly impactful organizations.

Over 70 Christmas trees lined the walls of the Rossi Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram showroom, all beautifully decorated with different themes and sponsored by a different company, organization or individual. Among these sponsors were the evening's top three winners, Mr. Ezio Rossi, and AJH Construction. The event brought in over \$88,000, which will be split between Abilities and Warren County Habitat.

"We are truly blessed to have such a caring and giving community," Cindy Wildermuth, Chief Executive Officer of Abilities, commented. "The Rossi family has

Right holding the check Ed Rossi owner of "Rossi Auto Group presents check from Festival of Trees to leadership from Abilities and Warren County Habitat."

1st Place: "AJH Construction, brings home the gold with their winning Cinderella tree."

impacted thousands of persons in need through this event, and we are sincerely grateful for their generosity."

Having been a beneficiary since the event began, Abilities of Northwest Jersey provides critical support to 375 individuals with disabilities,

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Over \$100,000
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