

Rossi Auto Group Celebrates 15th Anniversary of Festival of Trees with Biggest Event Yet!

By Brittany Krug

WASHINGTON, NJ - With the arrival of the new year, Rossi Auto Group, Abilities of Northwest Jersey (Abilities), and Warren County Habitat for Humanity (Warren County Habitat), proudly reflect on the success of their 15th Annual Festival of Trees, held on December 12th, 2024. Guests gathered from near and far to get into the holiday spirit, reconnect with friends and colleagues, and support these transformative organizations in their mission to serve the Warren County community.

For the 15th Anniversary, the Rossi Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram facility was transformed into a winter wonderland. The night began with a wonderful performance from the Abilities Rock Stars. Later in the evening, Santa came to spread some cheer. Over 80 trees were spread throughout, each meticulously decorated with a different theme. While enjoying holiday cheer with friends, the attendees voted on their favorite trees. This year's winners were Mr. Ezio Rossi, AJH Construction, and Warren County Tech School. The organizations were overjoyed with this year's success! Thanks to the generosity of 6 event sponsors, 80 tree sponsors, eleven wreath sponsors and 69 star sponsors, as well as attendees and voters, the event raised \$90,000. 100% of the money will be divided between Abilities of Northwest Jersey and Warren County Habitat for Humanity.



Abilities is dedicated to inspiring people with disabilities to achieve their life goals by providing individualized supports. The funds raised from this year's Festival of Trees will support their expansion into residential services at The Village at Hawk Poin□

"As an original and ongoing beneficiary of this event, Abilities has received over \$275k to positively impact those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are so grateful to the lives of those we serve," said Cindy Wildermuth, Chief Executive Officer of Abilities. "The Rossi family and our community for supporting us as we enrich and expand services for those in need," Cindy Wildermuth, Chief Executive Officer of Abilities shared.

Warren County Habitat has many plans for expanding their mission in 2025. Very shortly, they will be merging with Sussex County Habitat for Humanity to become Habitat for Humanity Northwest New Jersey. This will allow the two affiliates to combine resources, opportunities for land acquisition, and impact even more families across the two counties in the future. Currently, the organization's 26th home is being constructed in Harmony Township, plans are in place to construct four duplexes in Franklin Township that will become home to eight different families, and land was recently acquired for a Habitat home in Wantage in Sussex County. The organization will continue providing affordable repairs through their Home Repair Program, impacting people of all ages through their Community Center events, and serving the community through two ReStore locations.



"As our organization grows exponentially, it's more important than ever to have support from our community. We are so grateful for everyone who gave to this event, and who believes in our mission of building homes and hope in Warren County and beyond," Ben Eskow, Executive Director of Warren County Habitat commented. "The teams at Rossi and Abilities are wonderful partners to work alongside, and we're honored to have been given this amazing opportunity once again."

The Festival of Trees team would also like to recognize the volunteers from Ally, Valley Bank, State Farm, Morgan Properties, The Arc of Warren County, and WRNJ, along with many other individuals, for volunteering their time during the week of the event.

With this year's funds, Rossi's Festival of Trees has officially raised over half a million dollars for local non-profits since 2010. This could not have been possible without the donations and sponsorships from such a dedicated community. For more information about the event, please visit the website at www.RossiFestivalOfTrees.com. Mark your calendars: Rossi's Festival of Trees will return on December 11, 2025.



RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Residential and Commercial Façade Improvement Programs are designed to help improve the exterior appearance and condition of residential and commercial properties within the four boroughs. The program's goals are to maintain historical and architectural integrity, improve neighborhood appearance, and help property owners make exterior repairs to their homes or businesses while increasing property values for all borough residents.

ABOUT SLATE BELT RISING

Slate Belt Rising is a neighborhood revitalization initiative designed to integrate and capitalize on the substantial assets of the individual Slate Belt boroughs of Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Portland. While Slate Belt Rising specifically targets these four boroughs, some initiatives promote development and coordination of services throughout the entire region.

More information is available on our website under the Services tab, including program guidelines and applications Visit slatebeltrising.org.

PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action Lehigh Valley is an anti-poverty non-profit offering programs and services in Advocacy, Business Start-Up and Development, Food Access and Nutrition, Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Youth.



Contact Brian Fenstermaker at bfenstermaker@caclv.org or 484-523-0900 with any questions.