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L-R State Representative Jack Rader, Growing Place Polk Center Director Josephine Gioia, Growing Place Director of Communications and Human Resources Linda Barney, Waste Management Sr. Community Relations Specialist Adrienne Fors, and State Senator Mario Scavello.

In 2020, WM gave more than \$2 million to scholarship and education improvement organizations across the Commonwealth

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By Michael Ortoski

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SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.

DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND FACEBOOK

PEN ARGYL - In the Lehigh Valley, Slate Belt and Pocono regions, Waste Management provided nearly \$25,000 to qualifying organizations. The Growing Place, Lehigh Christian Academy, Greater Valley YMCA – Forks, Immaculate Conception, St. John Vianney Regional School are a few of the recipients awarded.

"The EITC program is so important because it allows The Growing Place to provide assistance to families who might not qualify for other programs. We appreciate Waste Management for recognizing how critical it is for all children to receive the best start possible. A high-quality early care and education program cultivates a child's social and emotional skills, and all children deserve access to set them up for success in kindergarten and beyond," said Lisa Eick, Executive Director of The Growing Place.

"These contributions are helping families across the commonwealth enroll their children in education programs that will advance their skillsets for the future. We are proud to be supporting our youth and the leaders of tomorrow,"

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APRIL 20, 2021

National Volunteer Week, April 18-24, 2021

By Cetronia Ambulance Corps

National Volunteer Week is an annual observance recognizing volunteers providing vital support in their communities. Additionally, the week encourages more people to consider volunteering. The first volunteer week started in Canada in 1943 to celebrate women's contributions on the homefront during World War II. In 1974, President Richard Nixon established National Volunteer Week with an executive order. Now, many countries worldwide have joined in.

National Volunteer Week is celebrated April 18 - 24, 2021. In today's society, volunteers are hard to come by in this industry and probably for most others for that matter. Our non-profit organization owes a lot to volunteerism. Cetronia Ambulance Corps was actually founded by 20 volunteers back in 1955.

Their goal was to improve the timeliness and quality of ambulance service for their families, community and future. Funds were tight but friends were abundant. Through contributed funds, events (and many hoagie sales), they raised enough for a wellused, but somewhat hard-running, Buick ambulance. Cetronia Ambulance Corps was born ... but greater reliability and resourcefulness was clearly needed.

At that time in the 1950s and 60s, S&H green stamps were offered by many retailers as a sales incentive for customers. Save enough of them and they could be redeemed for a wide variety of rewards-household appliances, sporting goods or, in the case of the fledgling volunteer group from Cetronia, a new ambulance.

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GREATER VALLEY YMCA qv-ymca.orq

* New Classrooms *