



Washington Township, Warren County resident Irene Howell (seated) receives the Outstanding Volunteer Award from (pictured L to R) Department of Land Preservation Director Corey Tierney, Commissioner James R. Kern III, Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla, and Warren County Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs Assistant Administrator Gina Rosseland.

Parks, Recreation and History Volunteers Honored as Warren County Celebrates Volunteer Month

By Art Charlton

(WHITE TOWNSHIP, NJ – April 24, 2026) Warren County honored its parks, history, and recreation volunteers as the Warren County Board of County Commissioners presented the 2026 Outstanding Volunteer Award to Irene Howell during a reception held at the Richard D. Gardner Branch of the Warren County Library.

“Our county would not be what it is without the expertise, advice, and hard work of so many volunteers,” Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla said, adding, “That is why recognizing these dedicated individuals is so important.”

Director Ciesla and Commissioner James R. Kern III were at the reception to personally thank the group of volunteers, present the Volunteer Month Proclamation that was passed on April 21, and to honor Howell as the Outstanding Volunteer in the parks, recreation and history area.

A Washington Township resident, Howell has been an invaluable member of the Friends of Shippen and an active volunteer at Shippen Manor Museum in Oxford for more than 20 years. Since 2003 she has offered her research and knowledge to visitors on local mining, industries, and the expansive history of Shippen Manor, the circa 1754 mansion that was home to the iron masters who ran Oxford Furnace.

All volunteers in attendance also received a certificate of appreciation from the County.

Volunteer Month aims to recognize and honor those volunteering and serving others in their communities while also raising awareness about the importance of volunteerism to inspire more people to get involved in service activities. Volunteer Month serves as a reminder of the power of collective action and the significant role that volunteers play in building stronger, more resilient communities.

Warren County is fortunate to have many volunteers who tirelessly devote their time, skills, and resources to causes that benefit the greater good, embodying the essence of civic responsibility and the spirit of service, enriching the lives of individuals and our communities.

During Volunteer Month the Warren County Board of County Commissioners urges all residents to take the time to thank and recognize those volunteers who help to make Warren County such a thriving community.



Valley Youth House Announces \$30,000 Partnership with Foxwynd Foundation to Support Youth in Crisis

BETHLEHEM, PA – Valley Youth House (VYH) is pleased to announce a \$30,000 grant from the Foxwynd Foundation to support the VYH Benevolent Fund. The grant was made possible through a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) of the Foxwynd Foundation. This exciting opportunity provides a critical safety net for youth and young adults facing unexpected and temporary financial hardships.

“Supporting young people facing instability is at the core of our mission. These programs provide not only immediate relief but also the stability and support they need to move forward with dignity and opportunity. We are proud to partner with organizations creating lasting impact in their lives,” said Pamela Villagra, Executive Director of the Foxwynd Foundation.

The Benevolent Fund serves as a last-resort resource, addressing emergency needs such as medical supplies, funeral expenses, employment documentation, and emergency transportation for youth struggling with housing instability. By removing these immediate barriers, the program helps vulnerable youth maintain stability in their housing, education, and employment goals.

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