

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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The human body, mind and spirit comprise our health and wellness. To improve our wellbeing, we must address three key components: nutrition, disease prevention and physical and emotional care.

### **NUTRITION:**

**Supermarket Wellness program:** Invite a dietitian from a supermarket or hospital to a club meeting for a program about making wise food choices.

**Eat Smart for a Healthy Heart:** Participate or sponsor in a cooking program for people who are concerned about heart health, include cardiovascular education, cooking demonstrations, and tasting of healthy recipes.

**National Nutrition Month** Celebrate in March with a potluck dinner at your meeting or hold a healthy food drive, requesting nutritious food from Feeding America's Healthy Food Donation List.

**Meals on Wheels/Senior Meals program:** Make blizzard bags for local seniors or shut ins. Volunteer to make deliveries or ask what you products can donate.

**Healthy Kids:** Contact your local schools and ask if you can collect/donate healthy snacks. See if there is a summer nutrition program you can support.

Challenge another group (men's group, Jewish women's group, youth group) or school children to see who can collect the most cans of food for the food bank or who can walk the furthest for a month.

### **DISEASE PREVENTION:**

**Easter Seals** – Easterseals Walk With Me National Fundraiser to raise awareness and support for families with diabetes. Organize a walk – see [easterseals/walkwithme](http://easterseals/walkwithme) website for info. Sign up for the monthly newsletter emailed. Arrange for a speaker at your club.

**Inside Knowledge** – Facts about Gynecologic Cancer Campaign – website: [cdc.gov/cancer/knowledge](http://cdc.gov/cancer/knowledge). Collect materials and distribute in your club. Promote Inside Knowledge on awareness days. June is National Cancer Survivor Month, use lavender ribbons, use pink for breast cancer, teal for cervical, black for skin cancer. Plan programs for breast cancer awareness. Hold a Bra-ha-ha fundraiser. Offer free mammograms to the needy.

**Alzheimer's** - work to promote awareness of this disease. Make fidget muffs, blankets, or aprons. Donate baby doll or stuffed puppy or kitten to keep patients busy. Check your local alzheimer's facility to make sure they would accept donations. Greater Alzheimer's Foundations serving 14 N.J. counties, the Delaware Chapter covers southern New Jersey Counties. Check Alzheimer's Association for walks and ways to help. Help line 800-272-3900.

**Promote Dining with Diabetes** distribute food charts, hold cooking demos. Many local supermarkets offer nutrition classes and will bring the class to club meetings. Know the symptoms of diabetes. Visit the website [www.healthline.com/health/diabetes-symptoms](http://www.healthline.com/health/diabetes-symptoms). Diabetes Foundation Inc 411 Hackensack Ave, 7<sup>th</sup> fl. Hackensack 07601. Share information about early signs & symptoms of diabetes in adults and children.

**JDRF** is the world's largest nonprofit funder of type 1 diabetes research. Our in-house scientists oversee a diverse portfolio of research tracks, leaving no stone unturned in our search for a cure. There are chapters in New Jersey, just see the website. Type 1 diabetes is a disease managed 24 hours a day 365 days a year. There are walks, bike rides and other ways to support this organization.

**Healthy Heart Month/Red Dress** Wear a red dress or red dress pin the **first Friday in February**. Decorate your street parking meters with red ribbons for Women's Heart Awareness. Display Red Dress Logo throughout your community. Check your computer for Red Dress Logos to print out and use. Lapel pins are available through the American Heart Association/Red Dress Lapel pins. Use the Heart Truth Speaker Kit to conduct educational sessions for women Join #our hearts movement. Host a Valentine social serving heart healthy refreshments.

**Shot at Life** Support Shot @Life with a "Pop a Shot" fundraiser shooting baskets for a prize. Check the website for other events. Encourage flu shots, Walgreens give shots, free with insurance forms. Spread the word in your community and club.

**Operation Smile** An international organization helping children who suffer with clefts and the power of a smile. Check the website [operationsmile.org](http://operationsmile.org) to find out the many items that can be donated and shipping instructions i.e. smile bags, smile dolls, hospital gowns, therapy supplies, quilts, blankets, afghans, no-no armbands. Operation Smile, located in Virginia Beach, VA. Phone 1-888-opsmile

**Medications** Learn about proper use of medications and the proper disposal of old medications. Check with your local police department for disposal date. Find look alike candy and food that look like medications and can be dangerous to children, taking medications thinking it is candy. Distribute the flyer showing the comparison.

**Vial of Life** contact [vialoflife.com](http://vialoflife.com). Vial of Life packet is printable online or can be requested, limit of 3 free. To share the Vial of Life program request the Community Packet on the form, 25 packets and 2 posters will be provided. Encourage club member and other groups to fill out the form and follow instructions. If emergency medical help is needed, the list will help with aid to the patient. Medical Care Alert also has a form online or you can call their customer service at 1-877-913-3680 for more information.

**New Eyes for the Needy** help purchase new prescription glasses through a voucher program for children and adults who cannot afford to purchase glasses. Recycled glasses are accepted and distributed for poor people overseas. Check the website [neweyesfortheneedy.org](http://neweyesfortheneedy.org). Lions Clubs collect used eye glasses, check your local Lions Club or help with the collection. Office and recycling center address; 549 Millburn Ave, Short Hills, N.J. 07078

**COVID19** Make masks and PPE, donate food to hospitals and first responders.

#### **PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL CARE:**

**Mental Health Awareness** Educate or donate during May for Mental Health Awareness month. [NAMINJ.org](http://www.naminj.org), <http://www.naminj.org/>. statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

**National Physical Fitness and Sports Month in May:** Celebrate by encouraging a family fitness event, walkathon, encourage a group walking program.

**Senior Assisted Living** Provide exercise equipment for senior citizens such as leg pedaling machines, resistance bands or yoga mats. Volunteer to hold or sponsor a chair Yoga or other exercise event.

**Get Moving** – start a walking group with members or other friends who may become members of your club. Park a block away from your meeting site and get a walk in. Know your blood pressure.

**Health Fair:** Organize or participate in a local health fair.

**Club meeting:** Start a meeting or have a program with chair exercise or Yoga demonstration.

**Support Blind and Deaf organizations:** The Seeing Eye: <https://www.seeingeye.org/>, Helen L Diller Vacation Home for Blind Children; <https://www.dillerblindhome.org/>; Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey: <https://www.vlanj.org/> ;