

SPECIAL STATE PROJECT SUPPLEMENT 2024-2026

April Shoemaker, Chairman

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The NJSFWC Special State Project 2024-2026 is the New Jersey Children's Alliance. This is a very unique organization as its goal is to keep children safe from bodily harm and sexual abuse. New Jersey defines this abuse as any child under the age of 18 who is physically, sexually or emotionally harmed or at risk caused by a parent or caregiver and they neglect to provide supervision, adequate food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care although they are financially able to or assisted to do so.

There are 21 centers in every county throughout New Jersey. A list of the centers can be found at njsfwc.org, Materials, Special State Project 2024-2026, Bulletin June 2024. Please contact these centers before collecting items.

Spreading awareness of the need in maintaining the Child Advocacy Centers are extremely important to the children that are helped to heal and live a healthy life. Members can also help by sending an email to NJ Congressional and Senate representatives requesting support for the Crime Victims Fund Act. Legislative alerts will be sent to clubs through the eConnection – NJSFWC's weekly emails. Go to njsfwc.org to sign up for the E-Connection.

There are many ways for clubs to support these centers:

- Collect backpacks filled with school supplies or collect items, such as notebooks, folders, 3-ring binders, glue sticks, pencils, pens, loose-leaf paper, crayons and markers. Donate Gift cards for Uber and Lyft in \$25.00 denominations.
- Consider sponsoring a free child abuse prevention training course in your community or district from the New Jersey Children's Alliance. The 2 ½ hour training helps community leaders, teachers, counselors, coaches, daycare centers, parent groups and community leaders understand the signs of child abuse and know when and where to get help.
- Contact this State Chairman (shoemaker@njsfwc.org) or The New Jersey Children's Alliance. The more you know the better able you can explain the project's needs to others.
- Find out what family supplies are needed by the center nearest to you. Provide items such as diapers, wipes, toiletries, blankets, towels, etc. Consider giving gift cards to help purchase items needed.
- Donate single serve snacks, such as cookies, crackers, chips, granola bars, baby snacks, fruit snacks, juice boxes, etc. These are used by the centers for children who come for forensic interviews, court preparation and therapy.
- Many children who leave the home are in need of supplies, such as pajamas, diapers, towels, sanitary supplies and other items. Contact your local center for details.
- Go to the New Jersey Children's Alliance online store to purchase a t-shirt (<https://njca.threadless.com>). Inquire at your local center about needs during the holidays.
- Participate in a Children's Walk in Trenton (April)
- If your community holds a National Night Out in August, consider having a table with materials promoting anti-crime efforts. Collaborate with your local police department.
- Utilize the Alliance as a speaker at your next meeting or community event. Contact the New Jersey Children's Alliance through April Shoemaker, State Chairman for further information.