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### EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY

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### FAMILY FUN DAY



The temperature might have been soaring, but so were the spirits of everyone at the Family Fun Day at Robert Holmes Gardens, July 13. Approximately 300 residents and neighbors mingled to enjoy an afternoon of good food and music. They Zumba-ed and picked up much needed health information made possible with the support of Edison Township, Family Success Center, and the Edison Housing Authority staff.

### TAKE ME OUT TO A BALL GAME!

Approximately, two dozen residents each night enjoyed the great American summer tradition of a baseball game, July 17 and August 13, with a

trip to watch the Somerset Patriots at the TD Bank Park in Bridgewater. The second game featured the added attraction of being Star Wars Night, where costumed characters from those movies mingled with the fans. The event raised money for the Beez Foundation, an organization dedicated to fighting pediatric brain cancer.

### JULIUS ENGEL GARDENS GETS A FRESH, NEW LOOK

Spring cleaning at Julius Engel Gardens led to beautiful results when dozens of residents gathered in May for the annual clean-up. The project was spearhead by EHA property manager Jolanta Kubacka who reached out to Home Depots in Edison, Woodbridge, and South Plainfield, as well as local garden centers for supplies. "This was a chance for tenants to meet," said Pat Tamburello, Bridges service coordinator. "It increases pride and connection in the community. It spread encouragement for residents to beautify their own yards."



## PANTRY BRINGS FOOD SHOPPING CLOSER TO HOME

What started as an emergency response to last year's government shutdown has evolved into a permanent resource for residents. At that time, EHA partnered with MC Foods to establish a food pantry that was so successful that the decision was made to continue. Now, once a month the community rooms at Robert Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens are transformed into a food pantry where residents, including Section 8 tenants, can get these much needed provisions. For pantry dates and times, we encourage our families to either check our website or call the administrative offices.

## EHA DEDICATES NEWLY RENOVATED PLAYGROUND TO FRANK MISTRETTA

For guests gathered at the ceremony dedicating the playground to long-time commissioner Frank Mistretta, who died in January, the moment was bittersweet, filled with remembrances of a man who devoted three decades to the housing community. On hand for unveiling of the plaque, launching this multi-year project, were Mistretta's children Frank Mistretta, Debra Vetterl, and Susan Mistretta-Badavas. The project was initiated by retired executive director Madeline Cook and continued by present executive director Deborah Hurley, along with her staff, the EHA board, Mayor Thomas Lankey and his administration. Meanwhile, in the background, the playground was filled with children enjoying the swings and the slide, just as Frank would have liked.



## LET'S DO LUNCH!

Ten-year-old Sahdia was happy. Looking at the lunch tray in front of her filled with cucumbers, tomatoes, apples, and a bagel. She said, "I haven't had pepperoni in a long time." Sahdia is one of dozens of EHA children who are enjoying the free summer lunch program for residents that runs Monday to Friday, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Robert Holmes Gardens and at Julius Engel Gardens. The program was made possible with a grant from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, which approved EHA to team up with the Community Food Bank in Hillside to administer the program.

## EHA STAFF RE-ORGANIZES TO BETTER SERVE RESIDENTS

Residents, be on the lookout for some exciting news from the EHA administration. The staff has re-organized to help its operation run more efficiently. The goal is to be able to enforce the agency's policies and procedures to improve the quality of life for our residents.

More detailed information will soon be available.