



## PRE-K OUR WAY

Prepared for school, ready for success.

[www.prekourway.org](http://www.prekourway.org)

## PRE-K OUR WAY NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER **NOVEMBER 2015**



### YOUR VOICES ARE SHOWING THE BIPARTISAN POWER OF PRESCHOOL

In October, high-quality preschool expansion in New Jersey saw bipartisan support from regions across the state. Shown left to right, State Senator Jennifer Beck, State Senator M. Teresa Ruiz and State Senate President Stephen Sweeney visited Freehold, New Jersey, where they talked about the importance of early childhood education. Freehold is one of the many communities long targeted for preschool expansion under the already-existing state law, but the program was never implemented. Increasingly, New Jersey legislators demonstrate support for the position that a strong start begins with pre-k.



### BRINGING PRE-K YOUR WAY

Pre-K Our Way has been attending local events throughout New Jersey to meet and listen to people share why their community needs high-quality pre-k. This month, Pre-K Our Way was excited to participate in the New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children's (NJAEYC) 70th annual conference. Congratulations to NJAEYC for their deep commitment to ensuring more of New Jersey's kids receive high-quality preschool access!

Here are some of the places we visited in October:

- Rahway Cultural Crawl
- Glassboro Unity Day
- Clifton Downtown Street Fair

Let us know about events in your community—PTA/PTO meetings, back-to-school nights, Chamber of Commerce meetings, Rotary or Women's Clubs— by contacting our Community Organizer, Milan, at [milan@prekourway.org](mailto:milan@prekourway.org).

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## GROWING LIST OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT PRE-K OUR WAY

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Individuals and organizations from across New Jersey are showing their support for expanding high-quality preschool access to more of New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds. This past month, Pre-K Our Way welcomed the Education Law Center to our growing list of advocate organizations.

*"The Education Law Center (ELC) serves as the leading voice for New Jersey's public school children and has become one of the most effective advocates for equal education opportunity and education justice in the United States." With David Sciarra, Esq., as Executive Director and Sharon Krengel as Policy and Outreach Director, the Education Law Center "is pleased to support Pre-K Our Way to achieve the goal of continuing New Jersey's national leadership in the delivery of early education."*

In addition to the Education Law Center, Pre-K Our Way welcomed the following organizations into our advocacy group. They join a growing number of New Jersey community-focused and statewide organizations—currently numbering more than 50—in support of bringing New Jersey's existing high-quality pre-k to 3- and 4-year-olds in more communities.

### **United Way of Monmouth County**

*"For the past 45 years, United Way of Monmouth County has worked to improve the lives of people in Monmouth County by mobilizing the caring power of our community. Our work is centered on education, income and health: three areas that are the building blocks for a good life and the foundation for a thriving, prosperous community."*

- United Way of Monmouth County

### **United Way of Northern New Jersey**

*"At United Way of Northern New Jersey, we believe that all children—regardless of family income—deserve access to affordable, high-quality preschool which is proven to have lasting benefits for children and families, as well as the wider community. Quality early education is often the most expensive item in a household budget, even more than housing, putting it out of reach for many families who are ALICE® (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) or in poverty. Our state's future well-being is directly tied to making sure ALICE's children are given a chance to receive that quality foundation."*

- UWNNJ CEO John Franklin

### **United Way of Greater Mercer County**

*"United Way of Greater Mercer County is making a public commitment to Pre-K Our Way and will encourage our community partners in Greater Mercer County to also support Pre-K Our Way."*

- UWGMC President and CEO Herbert Klein III

You can learn more about their commitment to helping New Jersey expand our high-quality preschool program at [prekourway.org/our-supporters](http://prekourway.org/our-supporters).

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## IN THE NEWS

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### [New Bipartisan Poll Finds Investing in Early Childhood Education is Top National Priority](#)

First Five Years Fund has released a new bipartisan poll with results that overwhelmingly exhibit that investing in early childhood education is a priority across party lines.

### [Lakeland Hills YMCA Helps Pre-K Our Way to Expand Preschool Programs](#)

Lakeland Hills YMCA recently joined Pre-K Our Way's advocacy group. They've shown their dedication and commitment to bringing high-quality preschool to more of New Jersey's kids and ensuring a brighter future for New Jersey.

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## SPREAD THE WORD

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You have shown your support for expanded pre-k access, and now you can inspire others to join the Pre-K Our Way effort. This month Ruth Piatt, a Vineland community private provider, used the videos and materials on [prekourway.org/resources-toolkit/](http://prekourway.org/resources-toolkit/) to engage members of her community and advocate for high-quality pre-k education for more of New Jersey's 3- and 4-year-olds. Use our handouts or presentations to let others know how important a strong start is for New Jersey's children. Need help using our materials? Contact us at [info@prekourway.org](mailto:info@prekourway.org) and we'll be sure you have what you need.

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## LET'S GET SOCIAL

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Want to show your support? Share one of our pre-drafted posts or tweets and inspire others in New Jersey to bring pre-k their way.

**Facebook Post:** It's time for more New Jersey communities to have access to high-quality pre-k programs. Show your support for the education of New Jersey's 3- to 4-year-olds by signing up at [prekourway.org](http://prekourway.org) today.

**Tweet:** NJ needs more high-quality pre-k. Support the education of New Jersey's 3- to 4-year-olds by signing up at [prekourway.org](http://prekourway.org) today.

**Have questions? Contact us at [info@prekourway.org](mailto:info@prekourway.org)**

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