

News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders
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Somerset County Donates PPE to Non-Profits *Emergency Teams Rush to the Rescue*

Recently, Somerset County donated more than 2,300 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to two dozen county non-profit organizations. Donations such as hand sanitizer, gloves and masks were given to non-profits that were identified as most likely to benefit from receiving donations in order to better serve local communities.

In collaboration with the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Somerset County Active in Disaster (SCOAD) Chairperson Lisa Galonardo developed and distributed a survey to SCOAD members to help determine the non-profits that would most benefit from receiving donations.

“By donating PPE to local nonprofits that are low on supplies, we made it possible for organizations to better serve our county’s in-need residents,” said Freeholder Brian Gallagher, Office of Emergency Management liaison.

“The PPE that was given to us says much about the people of Somerset County’s capacity for great compassion and generosity,” said America Delaware Valley - Agape Shelter Program Director Jacqueline Blake. “I hope this sends an inspiring message to others about the importance of donating and helping people in our communities.”

Early in the pandemic, Ashland Specialty Chemical, a company with offices located in Somerset County, began manufacturing almost 336 gallons of hand sanitizer. Not only did they manufacture it, but with the help of Somerset County’s facilities and services division, Ashland’s staff went the extra mile and personally delivered the hand sanitizer to various organizations throughout the county.

Somerset County’s Office of Emergency Management teamed up with the county’s facilities and services division to pack and deliver PPE. Staff members from both divisions were instrumental in executing other important missions during the pandemic.

The county’s Office of Emergency Management provides emergency services for residents to help ensure that they stay safe and informed during local, state and national emergencies.

Somerset County Organizations Active in Disasters (SCOAD) is activated when there is a local, state or national emergency. SCOAD is an entity that consists of volunteers from the county government, municipalities, non-profit organizations and community leaders who meet to keep officials informed of the needs of communities and help to ensure that resources are available to meet those needs.

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