

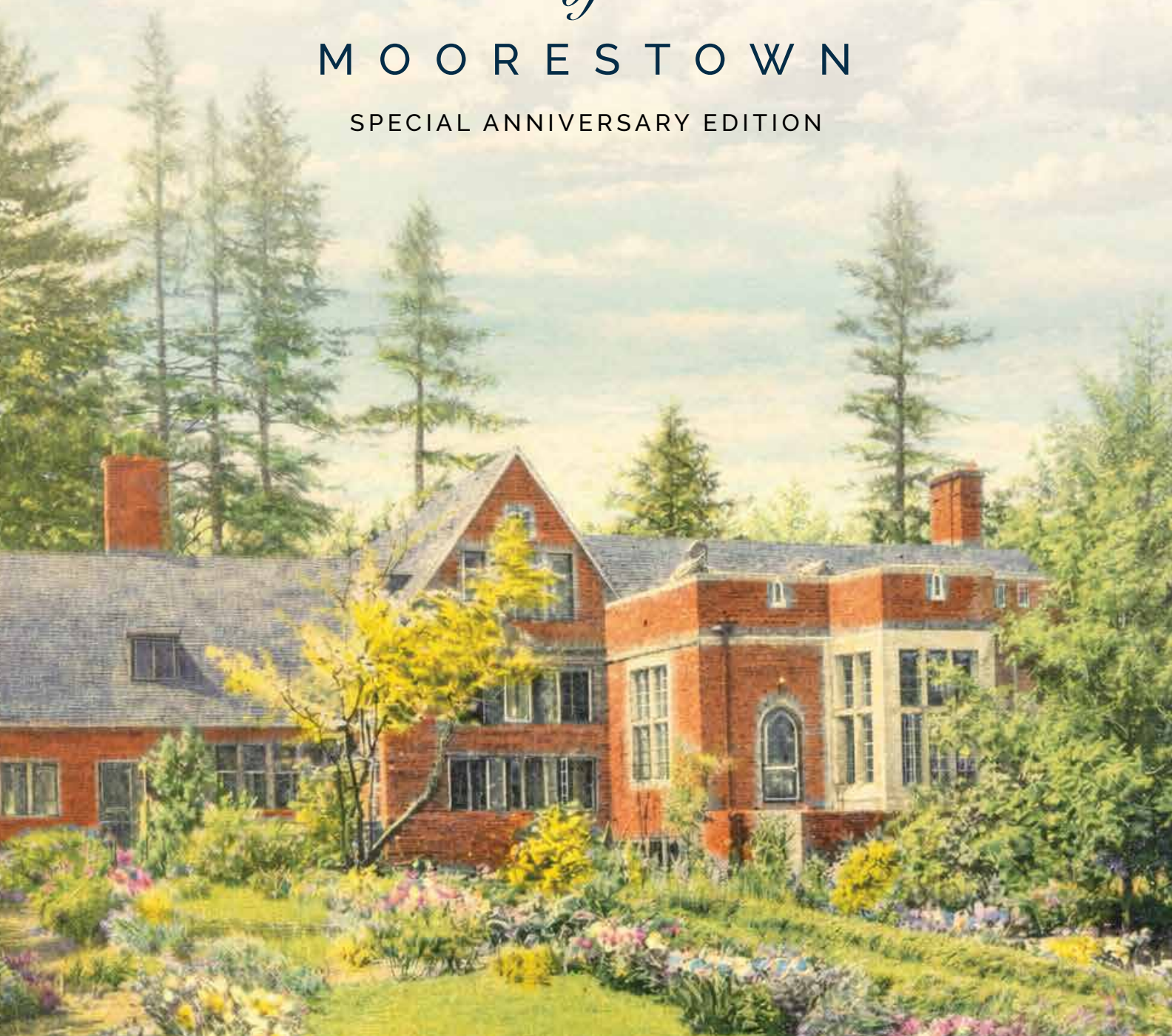


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of

M O O R E S T O W N

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION



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On the cover: Used as a postcard in the early 1920s, this image captures Mrs. Sumner's garden and was preserved by the Moorestown Women's Garden Club when the home was cleared for the Community House.



From the Executive Director



One hundred years. Wow—can you believe it?

When I pause to reflect on this milestone, I'm filled with wonder, thinking about the memories and stories of generations past.

A century ago, the Women's Club of Moorestown had a dream: to create a community gathering place where nonprofit organizations could come together to do their good work. Their determination

ultimately won over Eldridge Johnson, founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company, and the rest, as they say, is history—glorious, meaningful, community-filled history.

Over the past 100 years, so many lives have passed through these doors. Yet the spirit of service that inspired this building remains just as strong today. The vision of bringing people together—of creating a place where community happens—continues to guide everything we do.

Throughout these pages, you'll find stories, memories, and a glimpse of what lies ahead. If these walls could talk—oh, the stories they would tell.

Because of you, this remarkable place continues to thrive. And if the first century is any indication, the best chapters may still be ahead.

Cheers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam".

Pam Henshall, Executive Director
Community House of Moorestown

100th Commemorative Magazine is published by the Community House of Moorestown

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*Congratulations to the
Community House
of Moorestown on its
100th Anniversary!*

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The Original Campaign A Matching Challenge, A Lasting Legacy

by Gloria Pugliese, ALS United Mid-Atlantic

In October 1923, an article in the local newspaper announced that an “anonymous benefactor” offered to donate \$100,000 for the construction of a “community building for the centralization of the community’s charitable, religious, and literary activities.” The caveat was that Moorestown raised an additional \$50,000 toward the project. In response, the community took steps to “form an association to direct the raising of this money.” Thus began efforts to raise funds to construct the Community House, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. In today’s fundraising terminology, it would be said that a donor issued a matching challenge, and a campaign committee was formed to raise the funds to meet the challenge and complete the project.

One of the top donors to the early campaign to build the Community House was Eldridge R. Johnson, founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company. Wealthy individuals often led the charge of fundraising initiatives to build public buildings and establish charitable institutions. While much has changed and become more formalized about fundraising, this has remained the same. Nonprofit organizations depend on the philanthropic generosity of individuals and organizations to build and maintain their facilities, pay their staff, and carry out their missions.

In 1924, another fundraising initiative was announced in the local newspaper. This time, again with Eldridge Johnson taking the lead, the goal was to raise money for the “maintenance and upkeep of the building.” This was a prudent measure on Mr. Johnson’s part. Many nonprofit organizations that have been established throughout the history of the United States have not stood the test of time, while others have. Those that continue to serve their communities have, in many cases, had the benefit of an endowment or rainy-day fund that allows the organization to withstand economic downturns, emergencies, and other unforeseen circumstances. Fundraising for endowments can be challenging, as many donors want to see the impact of their philanthropy more quickly, yet it is one of the best things an organization can do to ensure its sustainability and plan for future activities. Eldridge Johnson wanted to make sure that his investment in the Community House would benefit the area for many years, and his efforts to create an endowment helped him realize that goal.

Yet fundraising cannot depend on wealthy philanthropists alone. A May 1924 article announced an \$80 donation from the Girls’ Patriotic League for the construction of the Community House, showing that nonprofits need donors of all levels for fundraising success. Indeed, the initial fundraising for the construction of the Community House included gifts from 740 donors, various fraternal and civic organizations, and 500 school children.

The article noted further that “a huge thermometer has been placed in front of the Town Hall by the Community House Committee, which will show the progress of the campaign.” This tried-and-true method of measuring progress toward a goal and generating enthusiasm for a project remains a hallmark of fundraising campaigns today.



In total, Eldridge Johnson contributed \$250,000 to the establishment and maintenance of the Community House, while the community raised \$204,000. Adjusted for inflation, in 2026, those sums would total \$4,777,558 and \$3,898,487, respectively.

While the initial campaign to raise the funds to build the Community House was

successful, the fundraising did not end there. A May 1956 article announced the annual restoration fund drive for the Community House, this time led by the Board of Trustees. On the 30th anniversary of the Community House, the fundraising drive noted the expanded need for services driven by the growth of the community. This provided a compelling “case for support” – industry jargon to describe the reason organizations ask for donations. The Community House was working to raise additional funds to expand its services for the growing needs of a growing community. The “Friends of the Community House” assisted the Board of Trustees in raising these funds. Many organizations still use groups such as this, with a variety of names, to expand their fundraising efforts.

Fundraising has developed as a full-fledged profession since 1923. When it started to be standardized in the 1970s and 1980s, most fundraisers fell into the profession after pursuing other courses of study and career endeavors. In 1968, the National Society of Fund Raising Executives was founded in New York, NY. The organization – later known as the Association of Fund Raising Professionals – provided education and resources to train fundraisers in best practices and help them hone their skills. While many fundraisers still come into the profession serendipitously, some younger professionals are doing so more intentionally. It is now possible to earn college degrees in nonprofit fundraising and management.

Although fundraising has evolved since 1923, becoming more standardized, data-driven, and regulated, much has remained the same; people give to people and to organizations that bring people together to create community and improve each other’s lives. The Community House of Moorestown stands as an example of what can be achieved when people come together in community for a common purpose to raise funds for an organization that benefits everyone. Philanthropy was at the heart of the Community House 100 years ago just as it is today. ●

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Christofer and James Daloisio

steadily through the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. The expansion wasn't flashy. It was earned project by project, client by client. Over time, the company's reputation for reliability and craftsmanship carried it well beyond its early roots.

In 1967, an office opened in Camden, New Jersey, extending service throughout the Southern United States, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. By 1969, that office was incorporated as Railroad Construction Company of South Jersey, Inc. (RCCSJ), marking a significant step forward for the family business.

The next generation joined in 1973, when James J. Daloisio entered the company, bringing degrees in engineering and law. Under his leadership, the business continued to evolve with the industry. In 1982, Railroad Constructors, Inc. (RCI) was formed, expanding its operations nationwide and strengthening its presence.

By 1998, the fourth generation had stepped in, with James A. Daloisio joining the firm. In 2001, RCCSJ and RCI moved to new headquarters in Paulsboro, New Jersey, designed to support the company's continued growth. Christofer (Chris) Daloisio began working full-time in 2002, and in 2007, the family launched 3D Railway Services, LLC. Today, the companies operate together under The Railroad Group, LLC—still family-owned and operated, nearly a century after Joseph first began.

That same sense of responsibility carries into the Moorestown community. Chris Daloisio has returned to the Community House Board of Trustees and serves on the Building and Grounds Committee. With a background in construction and infrastructure, he brings practical insight to the ongoing care of a building that has served generations of Moorestown families.

For nearly 100 years, the Daloisio family has built and maintained critical infrastructure. It feels fitting that one of its members is helping care for another kind of foundation here at home—ensuring that the Community House remains strong and ready for the years ahead. ●

In 1926, as the Community House of Moorestown opened its doors, Joseph Daloisio was starting something of his own. That same year, he founded the Railroad Construction Company, a small track maintenance business built on straightforward values: work hard, be honest, and take pride in the finished product.

It didn't stay small for long.

Joseph's son, Al Daloisio, joined him, and together they grew the company



100 Years, Benjamin Franklin Bridge — July 1, 2026

The region's most significant centennial marks the opening of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in 1926, originally named the Delaware River Bridge. At the time, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world, designed for cars, trains, trolleys, and pedestrians. It was renamed in 1956 to honor Benjamin Franklin.

100 Years, Rutgers University-Camden

Rutgers University-Camden traces its roots to 1926 with the founding of the South Jersey Law School, created for working adults. Its centennial highlights a century of growth from a local evening program to a nationally recognized research institution.

100 Years of Black History Month — February 2026

February 2026 marks 100 years since the first national observance of Black History Month. New Jersey is commemorating the milestone with statewide programs, including festivals, exhibitions, and educational events across South Jersey.

United States Semiquincentennial — July 4, 2026

The Semiquincentennial marks the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence. This national milestone will be celebrated across the country, with special significance in historic regions like Philadelphia and throughout New Jersey, connecting communities to the nation's founding ideals.





A Century of Service at the Community House The Rotary Club of Moorestown

by: Allison Altobelli,
Medford and Moorestown Living Magazines

For over 100 years, the Rotary Club of Moorestown has been a steady presence in the community—bringing together local leaders, professionals, and volunteers who share a commitment to service. Chartered in 1925, the club has spent the past century working to improve the lives of others while building lasting friendships and partnerships within Moorestown.

Throughout those 100 years, one tradition has remained remarkably constant: the Rotary Club of Moorestown has called the Community House of Moorestown its home.

Every Thursday at 12:15 p.m., Rotary members gather at the Community House for their weekly meeting. These gatherings bring together a diverse group of members ranging in age from young professionals in their twenties to longtime Rotarians in their nineties. Meetings feature guest speakers, discussions about local initiatives, and the planning of service projects that benefit both Moorestown and communities beyond.

But Rotary's presence at the Community House goes far beyond its weekly lunch meetings. Over the years, the club has hosted a variety of events there that bring the community together while supporting local charitable efforts.

One of the club's most popular events is its bi-annual Comedy Night, held right inside the Community House. These evenings combine fellowship and fundraising, with guests enjoying professional stand-up comedy in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. The most recent Comedy Night, held on March 19, 2026, drew a sold-out crowd and once again demonstrated the strong community support for Rotary's mission.

Events like Comedy Night are just one example of how the Rotary Club continues to use the Community House as a hub for connection, laughter, and service. The space has hosted Rotary gatherings, celebrations, and community programs for generations of members and residents alike.

Today, the Moorestown Rotary Club includes a diverse group of members committed to Rotary's guiding principle: "Service Above Self." Through scholarships, charitable initiatives, and partnerships with local organizations, the club continues to support projects that strengthen Moorestown while also contributing to Rotary's broader global mission.

As the Community House celebrates its 100th anniversary, the Rotary Club of Moorestown is proud to have been part of that story from the beginning. For generations, Rotarians have walked through the doors of this historic building—not just for meetings, but to plan service projects, celebrate community, and strengthen the bonds that make Moorestown such a special place. ●

Interested in joining the Rotary Club of Moorestown?

Swing by any Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at the Community House for lunch—on us. We'd love to meet you.



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Ann and Mark Baiada: Building Community, One Life at a Time

by Pam Henshall, Community House of Moorestown



How lucky we are to be celebrating the Community House of Moorestown's Centennial in 2026—alongside our nation's Semiquincentennial.

For generations, people have passed through the doors at 16 East Main Street, gathering for meetings, celebrations, and everyday moments that become lasting memories. You can feel it the moment you step onto the lawn or walk through the doors.

As I began outlining stories for this commemorative magazine, Ann and Mark Baiada quickly rose to the top of the list. Their story—rooted in compassion, vision, and generosity—reflects the very heart of Moorestown and the mission of the Community House. George Schulmann and I recently sat down with them, and what unfolded was less an interview and more a conversation about purpose, family, and the quiet, consistent ways they have shaped lives across our region.

A Vision That Endures

In 1975, Mark founded BAYADA Home Health Care with \$16,000 in personal savings and a belief that still defines the organization today: that people deserve to live safely at home with comfort, independence, and dignity.

Even in those early days, he imagined something more enduring—hoping BAYADA might one day become a nonprofit. At the time, however, that structure would have limited his ability to protect the mission he was building.

As the company grew, so did the question of its future. Selling never felt right. “Buyers are interested in what they can gain,” Mark said. “Nonprofits last—like the Community House.”

After many conversations around the family table, the path became clear: ownership would transition to a foundation as the majority shareholder, with family members and employees retaining a minority share. Ann shared that their children never questioned the decision. “They believe in the mission and respect the culture,” she said.

Mark still remembers the moment it became official. After months of preparation, he submitted the final paperwork at around 2:00 a.m. “I went to bed—and woke up as the nonprofit Chairman of the Board.” The transition was completed in January 2019.

A Partnership Rooted in Purpose

Their partnership began with intention.

Ann Claffey was already well respected as Director of Nurses for a competitor, known for her work in spinal cord rehabilitation. When Mark first asked her to lunch, she declined—it didn't feel right to meet with a competitor. Dinner, however, was acceptable.

As Ann told the story, Mark quietly added the date: “December 28, 1988.”

Ann would later join BAYADA as head of rehabilitation nursing, and together they built not only a company, but a shared life centered on service.

Finding Home in Moorestown

Moorestown became part of that story in a personal way. Mark's children attended Moorestown Friends School, and as a single father at the time, proximity to both home and school mattered. He moved from Cinnaminson to Elm Street, and BAYADA's first Moorestown office was a modest space behind





The Bayada Club Room is a charming space for hosting events and programs honoring the generosity of Ann and Mark Baiada.

the 7-Eleven on Chester Avenue. Some of the earliest large staff meetings were held at the Community House—an early connection to a place that, like BAYADA, exists to strengthen community.

Giving with Intention

That commitment continues to guide their philanthropy.

Ann and Mark focus their support on education, faith-based organizations, and underserved communities, particularly in Camden. Their impact has reached Moorestown Friends School, Holy Cross High School, LUCY Outreach, Cathedral Kitchen, and numerous religious communities.

Ann has also maintained deep ties to higher education, serving on the board of Neumann University and working with students at Chestnut Hill College.

When Ann and Mark receive a request, they consider what the gift will do—what makes giving meaningful and even fun. Their contributions are often tangible and personal: playground equipment, a jukebox, sponsorship of a Catholic college event in Pennsylvania, a drink sponsor for an Irish event, a rug for the church where the Moorestown Theater Company performs, and the lift at the Community House.

It is especially meaningful to them when they can see the direct impact of their giving.

Investing in What Comes Next

Their belief in investing in people extends to the future of healthcare. Through the BAYADA School of Nursing, developed in partnership with Cooper Hospital and Thomas Edison State University, they are helping educate the next generation of caregivers. A second school is now opening in Minneapolis, inspired by a longtime employee and former Moorestownian who recognized a need in his new community.

A Place That Brings People Together

Ann's connection to the Community House began with a step class in the gym—climbing into the bleachers to retrieve equipment before each workout, “a workout before the workout.”

Her involvement grew through her service on the Board of Trustees and her support for fundraising efforts, including the former donor wall and the Chair Auction. Ann is an active Rotarian as a member of the Rotary Club of Moorestown.

Mark's ties reach back even further, through organizations like The Tender and Samaritan Hospice, both of which used the Community House for meetings and office space—part of a long tradition of nonprofits finding a home here.

The Moments That Matter

When asked about favorite memories, Ann didn't hesitate. “The calendar,” she said, smiling. Not just a list of dates—it had personality. “Hot Dog Day.” “Kiss Your Spouse Day.” “Ice Cream Day.” Small touches that brought joy in ways that feel increasingly rare.

Mark recalled swimming in the pool, their children attending dances and enjoying scarecrows on the lawn, Ann hosting book club events, and they often attending events like the wine tasting and the countless programs these walls have made possible.

Looking Ahead

There is, however, a persistent misconception. “People think the Community House is owned by the township,” Ann noted—an assumption that underscores the importance of telling its story clearly.

Mark offered a perspective both practical and deeply rooted in community pride:

“It's important for the town, for families, and for kids. Most great towns have a place that represents who they are. It strengthens the community. It's good for property values. And if you believe in Moorestown and want to make it better, supporting the Community House is an easy decision.”

The hour passed quickly. I found myself listening more than speaking—taking in the stories, the names, the memories, and their shared vision for what community can be.

Ann and Mark lead with generosity. They invest in people. They value family. And they approach life with a sense of purpose, gratitude, and joy that is unmistakable.

On behalf of the many lives you have touched, thank you. ●



Clark Dingman - first Samaritan Hospice Director, Mrs. and Mr. Edwin B. Forsythe - US Representative from Moorestown, and Mark Baiada.



The first Samaritan Hospice Volunteer training class, including Ruth Krainik, RN, the first Samaritan Hospice Volunteer Director from Moorestown, and Mark Baiada.

The Last Chapter, Rewritten *Samaritan and the Revolution of End-of-Life Care in South Jersey*

Samaritan

LIFE-ENHANCING CARE

Before Hospice

In a healthcare system built to prolong life at all costs, Joanne Rosen, Samaritan's Chief Marketing & Public Affairs Officer, has spent 32 years focused on something far less discussed and arguably more profound: how we die. That kind of tenure is rare anywhere, but especially in a field that asks its practitioners to sit, day after day, with grief, decline, and mortality.

Samaritan, now in its 46th year, was founded in Moorestown in 1980, when the idea of hospice was still unfamiliar, even to some medical professionals. To understand why it mattered, you have to understand what came before.

Prior to the 1980s, "people often died alone and in pain in the hospital," Rosen explains. Visiting hours were restrictive, and emotional and spiritual well-being were largely ignored. Death itself was treated as something to be managed clinically, rather than experienced humanely.

The shift began with Dame Cicely Saunders, a British physician who challenged that model, arguing that end-of-life care should address not just physical symptoms, but emotional and spiritual suffering as well.

Her ideas crossed the Atlantic. One of the people listening was Dr. Agnes Gowdy, a South Jersey physician who would go on to found what was then called the Hospice of Burlington County. The organization later became Samaritan. It started with volunteers, including clergy, physicians, nurses, and social workers. In its early years, as the organization grew, it even rented discounted space in the Community House's basement.

Hospice, as Rosen describes it, is deceptively simple: keep people comfortable, surround them with support, and let them spend their final months on their own terms. But in practice, it's a highly coordinated system. A typical care team

includes a physician, a nurse case manager, social workers, spiritual counselors, and home health aides. Most care happens at home, not in a hospital.

Ask families whose loved ones have been in hospice, and they'll often say the same thing: they didn't expect the emotional or spiritual dimension. "It surprises people," Rosen says. "But we're not just treating symptoms. We're caring for the whole person and their family."

That includes addressing grief, which doesn't begin at death, but rather starts much earlier. Families are watching someone they love decline. They're caregiving. They're exhausted. They're heartbroken. Samaritan plans for that. Its Center for Grief Support offers counseling, support groups, and outreach that continues well beyond a patient's passing, especially during the first year, when loss can feel most acute.

Samaritan Today

What began as a small hospice has evolved into a broader healthcare organization, now serving more than 13,800 patients annually with a staff of about 400 and an equal number of volunteers.

Its services now extend well beyond hospice: palliative care that can begin at diagnosis, primary care delivered at home for patients who can't travel, and Social Connections, a newer initiative addressing loneliness and isolation.

Spend enough time working in end-of-life care services, and certain truths become unavoidable. "It's the equalizer," Rosen says. "It doesn't matter who you are." That universality carries weight. Samaritan has now cared for generations of families: grandparents, parents, spouses, and sometimes multiple members of the same family over time.

In a culture that avoids talking about death, hospice forces the conversation: Where do you want to be? Who do you want with you? What matters most? Rosen has spent three decades helping people answer those questions. And if there's one thing she's learned, it's this: "We're not meant to be here forever," she says. "But how we live at the end—that still matters." ●



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Celebrating 100 years of the
Moorestown Community Center.



**Perfect
Communications**

A Message from the Board of Trustees President: *Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future*



Welcome, friends and neighbors. The board is excited to welcome you to this new publication. We hope you find it informative and interesting. My name is George Schulmann, and I have served on the board since 2006 and have been president for a good portion of the past 15 years.

For those who don't know where our Community House came from: The Community House was constructed in 1926 to meet the needs of multiple social, charitable, and recreational organizations for office, meeting, and event space. The idea for the Community House was conceived in 1923 by the president of the Women's Club of Moorestown, Mrs. Mabel (Francis W) D'Olier. The Woman's Club approached Eldridge R. Johnson, founder and president of the Victor Talking Machine Company, about funding the project. Mr. Johnson, who lived in the building now housing Cambridge Rehab across from Stokes Hill, was about to fund the project. Johnson agreed to do so if the people of the town raised funds for an endowment to support the building's future maintenance. The Women's Club then approached other organizations in town about joining them in the new space. Six organizations: the local Library, the YMCA, the YWCA, the Moorestown Visiting Nurse Association, the Church Federation, and the American Legion all joined the Woman's Club as charter members in the use of the Community House.



Moorestown Women's Club spearheaded the idea of building the Community House. They were a robust organization hosting many events and programs for the community.

Johnson committed funding for the purchase of the site, construction of the building, and purchase and installation of an organ. Mrs. Johnson contributed to the endowment fund and provided many of the furnishings, many of which remain today, including the furniture around the building and the Steinway piano in the Bayada Club Room. The community matched the couple's generosity by raising over \$204,000 for the endowment fund.

The original building contained spaces for the library, as well as a gymnasium and a pool, along with a men's retiring room and other meeting spaces. The Community House was so

popular and in demand that Eldridge Johnson provided an additional \$75,000 in 1931 for the construction of a large addition encompassing the Garden room and expansions of the library.

The Community House is listed under National Register Criterion C in architecture as a contributing building to the Moorestown Historic District. On November 28th, 1989, it was listed on the New Jersey Historic Register (ID #836) and on the National Register on August 30, 1990 (Ref # 89002295). The building is an English manor interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. Designed by Karcher and Smith Architects, the same architects who designed the Trinity Episcopal church on Main Street and the Eldridge Fenimore Johnson residence, which became the first building of the Evergreens on Bridgeboro Road.

Of interest, years ago, there were beautiful gardens, a barn for horses, a chicken coop, and even pig pen. The building features a rare Vermont slate roof and retains its original windows and doors. Over the past 10 years, we have focused on preserving the building's history. Forty years ago, we were just an old building. Today, we realize the historic value of this place. This property and organization are truly unique and a treasure to Moorestown and the surrounding county. We are lucky to have it and want to ensure its next 100 years of service to the community. I want to thank Pam Henshall, our new executive director, for starting this publication and for her dedication to our Community House. ●



After years of hosting sporting and social events in the gym, it transformed into a ballroom in 2008.



The pool was a prime spot for swimmers from all over the region to take lessons, attend meets, and enjoy social fun.



Mr. Eldridge Johnson seen here with Alice Liddell Hargreaves, the "Alice" in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*.

What's a Community House?

A Century of Civic Life in Moorestown

by Trent Rhodes, Rhodes Fundraising

On any given day, the Community House of Moorestown hums with activity.

In the early morning, a group of local professionals gathers for a networking meeting. Mid-morning, children arrive with their caregivers for lessons with Mr. John's Music. By evening, a Bollywood dance class practices its choreography in one of the meeting rooms, music echoing down the hallway of the brick building.

Scenes like these unfold every day at the Community House. Yet the story of this building began a century ago.



A Movement to Bring Moorestown Together

The Community House of

Moorestown opened in 1926 thanks to a gift from Eldridge Reeves Johnson, founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company. His \$250,000 donation funded the construction of a building dedicated not to a single organization but to the town itself.

Johnson's gift reflected a broader national movement that emerged in the years following World War I. Across the United States, communities were searching for ways to preserve the

sense of shared purpose that had developed during wartime. Civic leaders worried that the rapid changes of the early twentieth century—urbanization, industrialization, and a culture that seemed increasingly individualistic—were weakening the bonds that held communities together.

Their answer was a new kind of institution: the community house.

From the early 1920s through the 1940s, towns across the nation built spaces specifically designed to host civic and charitable activities. These spaces were meant to serve everyone. They typically included meeting rooms, kitchens, auditoriums, and recreational areas where local groups could gather.



The Community House gymnasium served as an all-purpose room, hosting banquets, fashion shows, dances, movies, debates, concerts and recitals, weddings, and, of course, basketball leagues.

100 YEARS OF MILESTONES

1923

Moorestown Women's Club Leads Fundraising Effort

Local women organized a major fundraising campaign, supported by donors including Eldridge Johnson and over 500 schoolchildren, to establish the Community House.

1926

Community House Opens

The Community House opened on April 11 with a week of concerts, community events, and public programs.

1941-1945

Wartime Community Center

The Community House hosted a variety of activities supporting local World War II efforts, including war bond meetings and Red Cross training workshops.

1951

Civil Defense Headquarters

During the early Cold War, the Community House served as headquarters for the Civil Defense program, hosting air raid preparedness programs.

Many quickly became the center of town life. Service clubs met there. Garden clubs held lectures and teas. Youth groups organized dances and social events. Local charities hosted fundraisers and public programs.

Moorestown's Community House was part of this national experiment in civic life.



Teen dances have been part of the Community House history since the opening ceremonies on April 11, 1926

The idea proved durable. Over the decades, the building hosted an astonishing range of activities. Newspaper accounts describe art exhibitions organized by local women's clubs, community dances that filled the hall with hundreds of guests, and events like the town's popular House and Garden Tours. At one point, a "Lucky Lindy Hop" dance packed the building with spectators eager to watch the latest swing-era craze.

Why Community Spaces Still Matter

Across the country, many of the civic organizations that once formed the backbone of American towns have struggled in recent decades. Volunteer participation has declined, and membership in service clubs has steadily fallen. Historians and sociologists often describe this shift as the quiet unraveling of America's civic infrastructure.

These changes are often discussed at the national level, but their effects are felt most clearly in local communities.

Towns thrive when residents have opportunities to meet, collaborate, and take part in shared activities. Without those opportunities, even vibrant places can begin to feel fragmented.

Institutions like the Community House provide the kind of shared space where those connections can still take place.

A Charitable Home for Nonprofit Organizations

From its earliest years, the Community House was designed to support the organizations that serve Moorestown. Early tenants included the Moorestown Visiting Nurse Association, the Moorestown Free Library Association, the American Legion, and the YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties, among others.

Today, that tradition continues. The building provides a home to several nonprofit tenants, offering office space and shared resources that allow these organizations to focus on their missions. By keeping overhead costs manageable and providing a central location, the Community House helps ensure that local nonprofits can operate effectively while remaining rooted in the community they serve.

Beyond its tenants, the building also hosts a wide range of civic and professional organizations that meet regularly throughout the year.

The Moorestown Rotary Clubs gathers here to plan service projects that support both local and international causes. The Moorestown Business Association brings together local entrepreneurs to strengthen the town's economic vitality. The Moorestown Improvement Association, the town's oldest civic organization, continues its long tradition of enhancing the quality of life in Moorestown.

Each of these groups contributes something different to the life of the town. Together, they form a network of civic participation that reflects the original vision of the Community House nearly a century ago.

Working Together for the Community

In recent years, the Community House has expanded its efforts to support nonprofit organizations serving Moorestown and the surrounding region.

One example is the Community House's Nonprofit Summit, first held in October 2025. The event brought together nonprofit leaders, civic organizations, and engaged residents from across South Jersey for a day of conversation about the challenges facing community-serving organizations today.

Panel discussions, workshops, and networking sessions allowed participants to share strategies, build partnerships, and learn from one another. The summit will return in May 2026, continuing the effort to strengthen collaboration among the organizations that work every day to support the region.

Looking Toward the Next Century

One hundred years ago, Moorestown's leaders believed that a healthy town needed more than schools, businesses, and churches. It also needed a place where neighbors could gather, organize, and take part in the life of their community.

That belief still shapes the Community House today. The meetings, classes, and conversations that fill its rooms each week are part of a tradition that stretches back nearly a century.

As the Community House enters its second century, it remains what it has always been: the place where the community meets. ●

1978

Expanded Programming at the Community House

The Community House hosted a wide range of programs, including a disco dancing workshop inspired by *Saturday Night Fever*.

1993-1994

Accessibility Improvements

The first floor of the Community House is remodeled to provide improved accessibility to meeting rooms.

2008

Ballroom Created from Gymnasium

The former gym was converted into a major event and rental space.

2015

Fire and Restoration

A fire damaged portions of the building. The community rallies to restore the building.

2026

Centennial Year

The Community House marks 100 years as a shared home for Moorestown.



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THE SUMNER HOUSE AND THE MAKING OF THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

by Trent Rhodes, Rhodes Fundraising

As plans for the Community House took shape in 1924, Moorestownians also marked the loss of one of the town's oldest homes, known as the Sumner House. Described as "the most picturesque of the old homes in the township," the house, constructed in 1786, was set among heritage trees, formal English gardens, and shrubbery said to "have no duplication in America."

Yet the significance of the Sumner House extended beyond its gardens and architecture. By the early twentieth century, it had become closely tied to a growing network of civic activity led by women in Moorestown. The Sumner House was the home of Mary Roberts Sumner, a direct descendent of Moorestown's earliest English settlers John and Sarah Roberts, who arrived in 1682. Sumner served as first and second president of the Moorestown Woman's Club (originally the Current Events Club) and as founder of the Moorestown Visiting Nurse Association. Through her leadership, the property supported efforts that would later find a permanent home in the Community House.

Sumner, widowed in 1898, operated her East Main Street home as a boarding house, welcoming teachers and other professional women to Moorestown. In 1906, the town's first visiting nurse, Ida Croft, also took up residence at the Sumner House, traveling throughout the area to provide care to families in need. The Visiting Nurse Association, initially shared with Mount Holly, quickly proved essential, with Croft making hundreds of visits each year. Anchored at the Sumner House, her work offers a glimpse of how the property supported the town's emerging civic and social services before such efforts had a permanent home.

Sumner's work formed part of a broader culture of women's organizing in Moorestown during the early twentieth century. Groups such as the Moorestown League of Women Voters and the Moorestown Women's Christian Temperance Union, among others, reflected a growing commitment to civic engagement and social reform led by women across the community.

By the early 1920s, however, Moorestown's civic life had begun to outgrow the informal systems that sustained it. The organizations and services that had developed through networks of women required space that was more permanent. When the Sumner House was demolished in 1924, it marked the end of one chapter in the town's civic development and made way for another.

Completed in 1926 on the same site, the Community House brought together under one roof the activities that had long been dispersed across Moorestown.



Mrs. Mary Roberts Sumner, founder of the Moorestown Visiting Nurse Association, once operated her residence at 16 East Main Street as a boarding house. The property is now home to the Community House.

Where the Sumner House had quietly supported this work, the Community House gave it a permanent home at the center of town. It did not introduce civic life to Moorestown so much as consolidate and make visible a system that Moorestown's women had shaped for decades. ●

Congratulations to the Community House!
100 years of serving the community



 **Moorestown Breakfast Club**

Join us for a cup of fellowship and learn what Rotary is all about!

🕒 Every Wednesday at 7:15 AM
📍 Moorestown Community House

Roots, Paths, and Open Gates:

by Pam Henshall and contributor Tom Wyllner, Beechwood Landscaping Architecture & Construction, LLC.

The Garden Behind the Community House

A boxwood path, old-fashioned flowers, and a mystery that lingers.

Long before the Community House rose on Main Street—Eldridge Reeves Johnson's generous gift to Moorestown in 1926—a quiet frame house stood in its place. The house, for many years the home of Mrs. Mary W. Sumner, had a formal English garden with geometric paths, clipped boxwoods, and beds filled with the old-fashioned flowers of another age. Ewing laid out a formal English garden behind the house: geometric paths edged with clipped boxwood, beds filled with the old-fashioned flowers of another age.

"The paths bordered by hedges of boxwood and the beds of old-fashioned flowers suggest, perhaps more than any other spot in Moorestown, the days of our grandparents."

When the house came down, the garden might have gone with it. Instead, the Moorestown Women's Garden Club stepped in and preserved it—an act of quiet devotion that has given generations of residents a living connection to the town's past.

What lingers, though, is a small mystery: no one recorded exactly what grew there. No planting list from Mrs. Sumner's time has been found. The historical record describes the garden in feeling—the boxwood, the charm, the sense of grandparents' days—but not in plant names. That list, if it exists at all, may still be waiting in a bundle of papers at the Moorestown Garden Club, the Burlington County Library, or the Community House itself.

Our commemorative 100th anniversary magazine's cover is taken from the rear of the Community House and highlights Mrs. Sumner's remaining garden.



The following is a list of some traditional early 1900's plants categorized by Northern New York Nurseries, dated 1928.

Shade Trees: American Elm, Ash Trees, Catalpa, Lindens, Maples, London Plane Trees, Tulip Tree

Flowering & Ornamental Trees: Evergreen: Crab Apples, Flower Cherry, Dogwoods, Fringe Trees, Redbuds, Magnolias, Mulberry, Hawthorns, Plumb Trees, Horse Chestnut, Hollies, Spruce Trees, Cedars, Junipers

Hedging Shrubs: American Arborvitae, Buckthorn, Osage Orange, Barberry, Privet, Boxwood, Yew

Shrubs: Rose of Sharon, Azalea, Flowering Almond, Beauty Bush, Butterfly Bush, Deutzia, Forsythia, Quince, Kerria, Hydrangeas, Lilacs, Rhododendrons, Roses, Spirea, Mock Orange, Weigela, Witch Hazel

Perennials, Vines & Ground Cover: Achilla, Windflower, Aster, Bleeding Heart, Foxglove, Forget Me Not, Garden Pinks, Delphinium, Black Eyed Susan, Hibiscus, Iris, Bee Balm, Peonies, Phlox, Poppy, Astilbe, Yucca, Bittersweet, Clematis, Cinnamon Vine, Dutchman's Pipe, English Ivy, Honey Suckle, Wisteria, Climbing Hydrangea, Boston Ivy, Virginia Creeper, Pachysandra



Community House of Moorestown

A Community Garden for All



A Garden Without Limits

Rooted in Inclusion: A Garden for Every Child

Standing in the Garden Room today, it's hard to imagine what once was. A quiet grassy knoll, framed by rose bushes and graceful dogwoods, offers a peaceful retreat on a sunny day—though it shares the space with a well-used parking lot bustling with guests attending the Community House's many events. But that is all about to change.

A bold and beautiful vision is taking shape: to restore this beloved overlook to a thriving garden that honors its storied past while reaching boldly toward the future—and most excitingly, to make it a place where every child can play, explore, and wonder.

Designing for Every Child

The proposed Children's Garden is being designed as a fully inclusive, interactive, and multisensory experience—a space where children of all abilities can move freely and engage with nature on their own terms. Thanks to the generous donation of the Rotary Club of Moorestown, the Community House was able to partner with Steve Cherpurney, President, and Tom Whyllner, Landscape Designer, BSLA, of Beechwood Landscape Architecture & Construction, LLC, to bring this vision to life with thoughtful intention and expert care.

"The possibilities are endless," said Tom Wyllner—and the design proves it. Smooth, accessible pathways will welcome wheelchairs and walkers, ensuring no child is left at the gate. Raised garden beds, filled with fragrant blooms and richly textured plants, will invite little hands to reach out and explore. Herb plantings will delight the senses of taste and smell, while interactive musical instruments will fill the air with joyful sound.

A Nod to History, a Touch of Magic

The garden will also pay tribute to the Community House's own Eldridge Johnson, the visionary founder whose legacy continues to inspire. In his spirit of imagination and delight, the design will weave in a whimsical nod to the beloved classic *Alice in Wonderland*—because every great garden deserves a little magic.

A Place for Families

At its heart, this garden is about belonging. It is about creating a safe, welcoming, and joyful environment where families can come together, where children with disabilities can experience the wonder of nature without barriers, and where the Community House's deep roots in this community grow even stronger.

We are deeply grateful to the Rotary Club of Moorestown for making this first and vital step possible. Their belief in this project—and in the children it will serve—has set this garden in motion. The future of the Garden is bright—and it is blooming. Stay tuned for updates as this exciting project continues to grow.

Be Part of Something That Lasts

The Children's Garden is more than a project—it is an investment in our community and in the generations to come.

We invite you to be part of this meaningful transformation. Whether through a donation, sponsorship, or shared support, your contribution will help create a space where all children can play, learn, and belong.

Together, we can grow something extraordinary. ●



Looking back at the organizations using the Community House over the **first** 50 years

“The Community House of Moorestown’s vision is to improve the lives of residents of Moorestown and surrounding communities by providing a historic setting for civic, social, recreational, and educational activities.”

Since its founding, the Community House has supported fellow nonprofits by offering sponsorships at 50 percent below standard rental rates—because strengthening the organizations that serve our community is central to our mission.

The following is a sampling of the clubs, associations, and community groups that are part of the Community House story—and part of our legacy.

Visiting Nurse Association**
Moorestown Free Library
Family Service of Moorestown
Moorestown United Fund

DANCE GROUPS

Assembly
Circle and Squares
Nine O’Clockers
RCA Square Dance
Round Dancing

CIVIC GROUPS

Business Men’s Association
Junior Chamber of Commerce
Moorestown Improvement Association**

POOL

Barclay Farms, Cherry Hill
Blackwood Swim Club
Camp Alle
Camp Hope
Church Societies
Downs Farms Swim Club, Cherry Hill
Easter Seal Society
Kingston Estates, Cherry Hill
Merchantville High School Team

Moorestown High School
Girls and Boys Teams
Moorestown Community Swim Club
Private Swim Parties
Quaker Swim Club
Radio Corporation of America
Riverside Swim Club
Scouts, Boys and Girls
Scuba Diving Club

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Democratic Club
Republican Club

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Bluebirds
Christadelphia Ecclesia
Church Federation**
Seventh Day Adventists

SERVICE CLUBS

American Legion
Business and Professional Women**
Child’s Clinic**
Curtis Auxiliary
League of Women Voters
Rotary of Moorestown**

Women’s Christian Temperance Union
Welfare Association**
Y’s Men Club
Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA)
Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA)

LESSONS

Arts and Crafts
Ballet
Piano
Recreation Commission
Social Dancing
Swimming

CLUBS - ASSOCIATIONS

American Association
Junior Women’s Club
Newcomers Club
Playground Association**
Women’s Club, all departments**
Rebekah Lodge
Recreation Association**
Red Cross and War Workers**
Sub Deb Club**
University Women

HOBBY CLUBS

Bridge League Clubs
Burlington County Kennel Club
Camera Club
Cocker Spaniel Club
Garden Club
Lower Camden County
Dog Training Club
Music Club**
South Jersey German Shepard Club

** Denotes letter dated September 27, 1944, from the Township Clerk, Chas. Laessle to Mr. R.L. McLean, Landsdown, PA, describing the organization, history, facility, and a sampling of the organization’s “housed” at the Community House.

Can you help us identify the rooms and their locations?

COMMUNITY HOUSE FACILITIES

(1950/1960 Marketing Booklet)

Kitchen – Complete with modern facilities. Caterers available

Gymnasium – Stage. Piano. Public Address system.

Pool – Capacity 50 in pool; Benches for spectators. Registered Red Cross Life Guard on Duty.

Club Room – Tastefully furnished with large comfortable chairs, settees, grand piano, carpeted. Beautiful paintings; many casement windows with drapes and side lighting.

Lounge – Piano. Patio with benches. Screen for movies. Can be set up for practically any kind of function. Many large windows with beautiful view of the garden. Convenient to kitchen.

West Room – North side – 30 capacity. South side – 45 capacity. Piano. May be used separately or opened up into one large room. South side opens into small kitchen. Ideal for meetings of all kinds.

East Room – Piano. Most attractive room away from the “crowd.” Easily set-up for meetings of all kinds.

Scout Room – Capacity 30. Suitable for workshops, small meetings, boy’s clubs.

Tennis Courts – The Recreation Commission of Moorestown had subsidized use of the courts by local residents.

200 Club of Moorestown
Aero Club
Aglow Ministry
Alice Paul Institute
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Alumni of Pi Beta Phi
 South Jersey Women's
American Association of University
 Women Clubs
American Cancer Society
American Legion
Auxiliary to the Burlington County
Medical Society
BAYADA
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Burlington
 and Camden Counties
Bollywood Dance Classes
Booksmiles
Burlington County Agriculture Board
Burlington County College
 Foundation Theater
Burlington County Medical Society
Burlington County Public Health
 Nursing Association
Burlington County Orchard Growers
Burlington County Regional
 Chamber of Commerce
Burlington County Section of Natl
Council of Jewish Women
C. G. Jung Society of West Jersey
Camp K
Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge
Center for Conscious Living
Center for Traumatic Grief
Clusters at Windrow Ponds
Cherry Hill Bible Fellowship
Circolo Italian Club of South Jersey
Community Fund
Community Nursing Services
Communications Workers Local 1034
Conservatives of Burlington County
CONTACT of Burlington County
Cooper Health
Coriell Institute
Delaware Valley Antique Dealers
Delta Kappa Gamma
Delran High School
Delran High School Swim Club
Elder Care Ethics Association
Emergency Services - Catholic Charities
EMS Squad of Moorestown
Erlton Swim, Cherry Hill
Ethnic Expression
Evergreen Women's Club
Faith Fellowship Baptist Church
Family Promise of Burlington County
Fort Dix Squadron
Foundation for Families
Friends of the Library
Garden Clubs - 5 surrounding towns

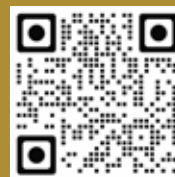
Girl Scouts of Central and Southern NJ
Goddard School
Good Fellowship Club
Habitat for Humanity
Haitian Community Center
 of South Jersey
Home Grown Moorestown
H.O.P.E. - Helping Other People Evolve
Inspiring Life Together
Institute of Christian
 Counseling/Therapy
Interservice Club Council
Jazzerise
Jefferson Health
Kennedy Hospital
Legacy Treatment Services
Lenola Youth Improvement Association
Lifeline Screening
Lions Club
March of Dimes
Memorial Hospital Foundation
MEND, Inc.
Mental Horizons Club
Methodist Youth Group
Mister John's Music
Montessori Seeds of Education
Moorestown 3rd Grade
 Community Program
Moorestown Arts Advocacy Council -
 MoorArts
Moorestown Business Association
Moorestown Citizens of the Year
Moorestown Daughters of the
 American Revolution
Moorestown Friends School
Moorestown Historical Society
Moorestown Home and School
 Association
Moorestown Jewish Association
Moorestown Men's Group
Moorestown Music Collective
Moorestown Pride
Moorestown Public Schools - Clubs
 and Sports Teams (Interact, Robotics
 Club, Ice Hockey Club, Madrigals,
 Girls/Boys Volleyball, Girls Swim,
 Track, Field Hockey, Girls/Boys
 Basketball, Baseball, Wrestling, Girls/
 Boys Lacrosse)
Moorestown Rotary Breakfast Club
Moorestown Senior Citizens Club
Moorestown Theatre Company
Moorestown United Fund
Moorestown Welfare Association
Mount Holly Bridge Clubs
Mount Holly Presbyterian Jr
 Fellowship Group
Mount Laurel Networkers
NAMI - National Association of
 Mental Illness of Burlington County

Needle Work Guild
New Beginning Worship Center
New Jersey Agricultural Society
New Jersey (Barry) Goldwater
 Association
Oaks Integrated Care
Orchard Friends School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Perkins Center of the Arts
Pheasant Run Swim Lessons
Pixel Placed
Pomona Swim Club
Relief Engine Company of Moorestown
Riverside NJ Bridge Club
Saint Pete's Sunnybrook
Scottish Dancers of South Jersey
South Jersey Bead Society
South Jersey Bridge
South Jersey Survivors of
 Violent Crimes
South Jersey Ski Club
South Jersey Vegetarian Society
St. Peter's School
STEM of Moorestown
The Joseph Fund
The Tender
Samaritan Hospice
Tiny Tutus Dance Studio
Toastmasters
United Way of Burlington County
Urban Promise
Virtua Health
Volunteers of America
West Jersey Ballet
Women Who Never Give Up
Zeta Delta Zeta Chapter of
 Zeta Phi Beta sorority ●

Who are we missing?

We invite you to help us continue to gather and preserve the many stories, conversations, lessons, and experiences that have echoed throughout the Community House. By sharing your memories, you are helping to build a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Visit www.thecommunityhouse.com



The Woman Who Drew Moorestown

has spent a lifetime capturing her hometown in ink and watercolor—and fighting to keep it standing.



There's an ink drawing of the Community House that has appeared on calendars, note cards, and walls about town for decades—one of those drawings is deeply woven into Moorestown's identity, and we forget someone created the drawing. Midge Ingersoll created the drawing. And somewhere along the way, the original was sadly thrown out.

"Nobody has any idea where it went," said Ingersoll, with the pragmatic sorrow of someone who has seen too many beautiful things disappear. For Ingersoll—artist, architectural renderer, preservation, and Moorestown native—that lost drawing is a small parable about a larger problem: the things a community doesn't notice until they are gone.

Ingersoll grew up in Moorestown as Margaret Wright. She was an only child whose parents quickly recognized their quiet, paper-and-crayons daughter had a gift. She was the kind of child teachers remember. Her fourth-grade art teacher, Mr. Norcross, asked to keep a construction-paper turkey she'd made for Thanksgiving. He kept mentioning it every time he ran into her in high school. "It's amazing how that instilled confidence in a little girl," she says.

She majored in art, minored in art history, and spent six years teaching high school art in Maple Shade. "I wanted to teach serious people. The kids who actually wanted to be there." Summers, she worked as a draftsman at Taylor, Wiseman, and Taylor, spending long days at a drafting table with rapidograph pens of every size, learning to read a landscape. When she left teaching to start a family, architectural rendering became her livelihood. In the 1990s alone, she produced 578 original pieces of art—for builders, private homeowners, and Moorestown's nonprofits, always pro bono.

"When you draw something, you have to really look at it—you don't miss details," she says. "After doing that for 45 years, you come to love what you're seeing. And then when you start seeing it being torn down, you get a little riled up."

She got more than a little riled up. For years, she fought to establish a Historic Preservation Commission in Moorestown, coming heartbreakingly close before the ordinance was thrown out on a procedural technicality. The judge was clear: nothing was wrong with the ordinance itself. But it was enough. In the time it took to get that far and fail, several significant historic homes—connected to the old Quaker families, the Hollingsheads, the Crews—were demolished. She still has photographs of all of them.

The story Ingersoll is most associated with in Moorestown, besides her drawings, Nipper 2005—during the summer, 30 painted fiberglass Nipper dogs appeared on downtown streets and transformed the town into, briefly and brilliantly, a destination.

The project united five local nonprofits: the Community House, the Evergreens, the Lutheran Home, the Perkins Center for the Arts, and the Historical Society. They obtained copyright permission, commissioned a prototype, and put out a call

for submissions. They received 130; the Perkins Center jury selected 33. Two were Ingersoll's.

For "Roots of Nipper," she painted a dog whose body winds around the trunk and branches of a massive oak tree, its surface covered with tiny renderings of Moorestown's historic buildings—Trinity Church, the Community House, the original RCA plant—progressing from base to head. A portable history of the town in paint. RCA chose it and placed it in front of the Community House; a community consortium later secured it permanently at auction for \$5,500.



Ingersoll chaired the auction, held on a Sunday evening in the old Wannamaker's space at the Moorestown Mall. She insisted that everyone, including committee members, buy a ticket. "This is a fundraiser. I'm chairing this thing. I'm buying a ticket." They raised \$137,992, with dogs selling between \$1,500 and \$15,000. The highest price went to a breathtaking mosaic Nipper covered in Philadelphia imagery—Independence Hall, the American flag—that still stands today on the corner of Main and Mill Streets.

That summer, foot traffic filled downtown in a way Ingersoll hadn't seen in her lifetime. A best-towns magazine came and was blown away. "For the first time, the streets were filled with walking traffic," she says. "People thought, oh, this is pretty cool. These big old trees, these lovely buildings." A pause. "The ones we don't tear down."

These days, Ingersoll still returns to Moorestown regularly, and she's been thinking about organizing a retrospective exhibition of her architectural drawings—decades of ink renderings and watercolors of the town's buildings. She'd also like to help the Community House place small cards beside its artwork, telling the story of each piece. Including, she suggests, the rushed rendering she dashed off for a Planning Board presentation—the one she'd rather take down.

"There are so many stories to share," she says. "It's not the walls. It's the stories."

She would know. She's been drawing them for 45 years.

The Moorestown Community House is located at 16 E. Main Street, Moorestown, NJ. "Roots of Nipper" is permanently installed on the grounds. ●

Community House of Moorestown

What was the Nipper 2005 Project?

In 2005, Moorestown hosted a public art exhibition featuring 30 life-size fiberglass statues of “Nipper,” the famous RCA dog from “His Master’s Voice.”

- Each statue stood about 5 feet tall and was individually designed by artists
- Local businesses and organizations sponsored each piece
- The statues were displayed throughout town during the summer
- In October 2005, they were auctioned to raise funds for local nonprofits

Community partners included:

- Community House of Moorestown
- The Evergreens
- Historical Society of Moorestown
- Lutheran Home at Moorestown
- Perkins Center for the Arts



Examples of Nipper statues:

Here are some of the actual designs from the project (many were highly creative and locally inspired):

“Roots of Nipper” (Margaret Ingersoll)

Painted with Moorestown landmarks and history and one of the few statues still on public display today on Main Street. From the full exhibit list:

- “Uncle Sam Nipper” – patriotic theme
- “Monet’s Mutt” – impressionist-inspired
- “Patches of Music” – quilt-based design
- “WWII Flying Ace” – aviation tribute
- “Peaceful Nipper” – created with student involvement
- “Philadelphia Nipper” – regional pride

Each statue reflected local culture, history, or artistic style, making the town itself feel like an open-air gallery.

Where are they now?

- Most statues were sold at auction in 2005
- A few remained locally, including: “Roots of Nipper” at the Community House
- Some may still exist in private collections or businesses

Why the project mattered

The Nipper 2005 Project wasn’t just decorative, it:

- Raised funds for local nonprofits
- Celebrated Moorestown’s connection to early recorded music
- Brought artists, students, and businesses together
- Turned the entire town into a shared cultural experience ●





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Become a Friend of the Community House!

We're so excited to introduce our brand-new membership program—a way for you to go deeper with the community you love. As a Friend of the Community House, you'll enjoy exclusive perks, special events, and the joy of knowing your support helps keep this place thriving for everyone. Because when you invest in the Community House, you invest in the neighbors, friendships, and memories that make it home.

This commemorative special 100th Anniversary magazine honors a century of community, showcasing historic photographs, stories, milestones, sponsors, and reflections that celebrate the enduring legacy of the Community House of Moorestown.

We would like to thank our advertisers, contributors, and special Friends of the Community House supporters!

New Friends of the Community House

Glenn Henkel & Molly Kirkpatrick

Longest-tenured Board of Trustees member Glenn Henkel and his wife, Molly Kirkpatrick.

George Schulmann & Michelle Schulmann

Board of Trustees President George Schulmann and his wife, Michelle Schulmann.

YMCA of Burlington County

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The Burlington County Y's Men's Club and the Y.M.C.A. was one of the early tenants of the Community House, running numerous activities including swimming, before moving to their new facility at 59 Centerton Road, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. ●

Become a Friend of the Community House	\$25 Student	\$50 Individual	\$125 Supporter	\$500 Sustainer
	\$25 Senior	\$75 Household/Family	\$250 Patron	\$1,000 Benefactor

Please contact: Pam Henshall, Executive Director: pam@thecommunityhouse.com

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CONGRATULATIONS to the Community House of Moorestown on 100 years of success in serving our beloved community.

THANK YOU to all the dedicated staff and volunteers who made this milestone possible.

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Congrats from
MOORESTOWN TOWNSHIP

**For a century, the Community House has
been a fixture of Main Street where
neighbors gather, organizations grow and
memories are made.**

**Moorestown Township is proud to
celebrate this milestone and grateful for
the partnership that has helped strengthen
our community.**

**Congratulations on 100 years & thank you
for being such an enduring part of
Moorestown's story.**

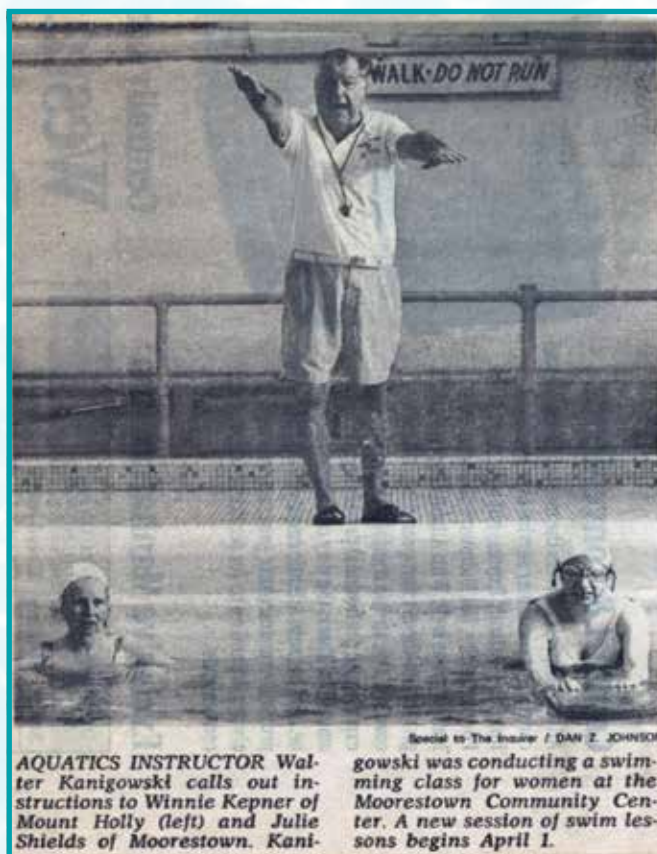




How one man taught 40,000 swimmers without ever getting wet

On a Friday night in 1950s Moorestown, you could get into the Community House pool for a quarter. Twenty-five cents bought you a lane, a splash, and—if you were lucky—a pointer from the man who seemed to know everything about water without ever setting foot in it.

Walter W. Kanigowski was the kind of figure every close-knit town produces once, if it's fortunate. A lifeguard and swimming instructor at the Community House pool for much of the 1950s and into the early '60s, he presided over a 20-yard, four-lane tank with a one-meter diving board that punched well above its weight. Swimmers came from across South Jersey to learn there. School teams trained in those narrow lanes. Beginners found their footing. And through it all, Kanigowski watched from the deck—patient, skilled, and dry.



By the time he was done, he had taught more than 40,000 swimmers.

The pool itself was modest by any measure, but what happened inside it wasn't. The schedule ran thick with instructional programs, competitive meets, and open swim sessions that drew neighborhood kids and seasoned athletes alike. At a time when dedicated aquatic facilities were rare in towns this size, the Community House filled a genuine need—not just for recreation, but for the kind of structured community life that defined the postwar decades.

Kanigowski made it work. His approachability brought in beginners who might have otherwise stayed on the shore. His expertise kept serious competitors coming back. And his consistency—season after season, lesson after lesson—turned a small indoor pool into something larger: a cornerstone of Moorestown life, the place where generations learned what it meant to move through the water with confidence.

Not bad for a man who kept his shoes on.



Walter W. Kanigowski sitting in a chair at the far end of the pool.

Newspaper Headlines Over the Years

The Pool

"The Community House has been serving Moorestown and surrounding communities since 1926. Behind its stately façade is a heated indoor swimming pool." *Visit South Jersey*

YMCA Partnership & Programs

"The YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties manages the pool at the CHM and provides aquatics programs including lap and family swimming, infant self-rescue swimming lessons, water walking classes, parent-child swim lessons, private swim lessons, competitive swimming, and free/family swim times."

The Sun Newspapers

"Under the partnership agreement, YMCA facility members and CHM pool members have access to the pool for free."

The Patch

Swim Instruction

"Coach Tom Wilkinson established a year-round (fall, winter, and spring) Learn to Swim program based out of the Community House starting in 1997, which ran until spring 2016. The Aquatics Pro Shop. His program was described as a hands-on group swim program focused on teaching proper swimming fundamentals and stroke mechanics to children ages 3-10."

Swim Teams

"The Y rents space to swim teams that have relationships with the CHM, with rental groups—large and small—under the supervision of the Y's certified lifeguards." *The Sun Newspapers* The pool has historically hosted high school swim teams and competitive clubs. ●

**Congratulations to the
Community House of Moorestown!**



**Here's to a century of bringing people and
community together, and to all the great
moments still to come.**

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Join Us—Be Part of Something Bigger!

The Community House of Moorestown has been the heart of this community for 100 years—and its next chapter is being written right now. We are growing, dreaming big, and building something truly remarkable, and we need passionate, dedicated people like you to help make it happen.

Whether you love history, working with children, planning events, or rolling up your sleeves to get things done, there is a place for you here. Volunteering with the Community House is more than giving your time—it's joining a family of neighbors who believe in the power of community, connection, and creating a place where everyone belongs.

Take a look at our committees below and find the one that speaks to your heart. New volunteers are warmly welcomed, and no experience is necessary—just enthusiasm and a desire to make a difference right here in Moorestown.

Come be part of the next 100 years. We can't do it without you!

Email volunteer@thecommunityhouse.com today!

Buildings and Grounds Committee Help us maintain and beautify the spaces that bring our community together. The Buildings and Grounds Committee oversees the care and upkeep of our historic facility and surrounding property. Volunteers with skills in facilities management, landscaping, or general maintenance are especially needed. Historic Preservation is our mission.

Capital Campaign Committee Be part of something transformational. The Capital Campaign Committee is working to secure the major gifts and funding needed to invest in the long-term future of the Community House. Volunteers with experience in major donor relations, nonprofit fundraising, or strategic planning are encouraged to join.

Children's Garden Committee Help bring a beautiful new vision to life! The Children's Garden Committee is working to create a newly proposed inclusive garden space designed to be accessible and welcoming to children of all abilities. This exciting project will combine hands-on learning, nature exploration, and thoughtful design to ensure every child can participate and thrive. If you have a passion for horticulture, accessibility, or education, we'd love to have you on board.

Civics Education Committee Help inspire the next generation of engaged citizens! The Civics Education Committee develops and delivers fun, age-appropriate programs that introduce children to how their community, local government, and democracy work. Whether you're a teacher, parent, or simply someone who believes in empowering young people with knowledge, your involvement can make a lasting impact.

Community Events Committee Love bringing people together? This is the committee for you! The Community Events Committee plans and produces the programs and gatherings that make the Community House the heart of Moorestown. From seasonal celebrations to special programs, your creativity and energy will help create lasting memories.

Fundraising Committee Your ideas and enthusiasm can help power everything we do. The Fundraising Committee works to develop creative campaigns, donor relationships, and special events that sustain and grow the Community House's mission. Business, marketing, or event planning backgrounds are a plus—but anyone with passion and drive is welcome.

History Committee Help us preserve and share the rich story of the Community House! The History Committee is dedicated to researching, documenting, and celebrating our organization's 100-year legacy. Volunteers with a love of local history, archiving, or storytelling are warmly welcome.

Museum Committee Be a founding voice in something truly special! The Museum Committee is working to bring an exciting new vision to life—creating a museum that will celebrate the history of the Community House and the Moorestown community for generations to come. This is a ground-floor opportunity to help shape exhibits, build a collection, and turn a dream into reality. Visionaries, historians, designers, and community champions are all welcome.

Volunteer Outreach Committee People are our greatest resource! The Volunteer Outreach Committee recruits, welcomes, and supports the wonderful volunteers who keep the Community House thriving. If you enjoy connecting with people and building community, this is a perfect fit. ●

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