

HOPEWELL VALLEY NEIGHBORS

Spotlight on Community

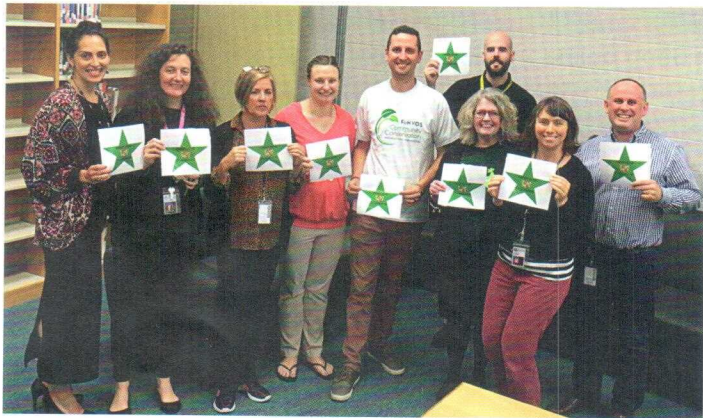
FoHVOS Continues its Tradition of Giving

By Lisa Wolff | Executive Director, FoHVOS

November is the perfect time for expressing gratitude and reflecting on your year. At month's end we culminate with Thanksgiving, Giving Tuesday, and the holiday season.

For FoHVOS, 2018 was a time many partners contributed to our mission of safeguarding the character of Hopewell Valley by preserving land, protecting natural resources, and inspiring conservation advocacy.

We introduced FoHVOS Community Conservation and were blown away by the tremendous community response. Businesses,



Green Star Winners (from Left to Right) Raquel Rivera, Tatiana Arias Regidor, Renee Egan, Dana Heller, Mike Sullivan, Josh Holland, Karen Lucci, Carolyn McGrath, and David Schwartz



EcoWarrior Winners (from Left to Right) Thomas Smith (Superintendent of Schools), Adam Russell (Bear Tavern), Katie Genovesi (Central High School), Megan D'Alessandro (Hopewell Elementary), Matthew Nguyen (Stony Brook), Zelda Houghton (Toll Gate), Harriet Strunk (Timberlane), Lisa Wolff (FoHVOS Executive Director).

municipalities, schools, nonprofit organizations, local homeowner associations, and individual volunteers collaborated to “restore valley lands together.” Immediate results included new meadows, outdoor classrooms, restored detention basins and ponds, that bring ecological, educational, and beautification benefits to our Valley.

Throughout the year Hopewell Valley Neighbors magazine has shared FoHVOS Force of Nature stories of amazing local women whose generosity of time and spirit have provided significant conservation impact throughout Hopewell Valley. In September we held a Force of Nature celebration in their honor.

Also at the Force of Nature gala, former FoHVOS trustee Chris Berry received the Gleeson award for lifetime ecological achievement. Current volunteer Ron Russell was recognized for his tireless efforts that provide FoHVOS and other local nonprofits tremendous benefit. Finally, Tom Quinn and HVRSD were recognized for conservation initiatives that not only resulted in reduced carbon footprint and improved air quality for students and staff, but also, contributed to Sustainable Jersey awarding its Bronze certification to the majority of HVRSD schools.

Force of Nature and volunteer contributions benefit our community now and in the future. FoHVOS hopes our recognition both documents advances to our mission work, and motivates others to get involved.

In that same spirit, FoHVOS sponsored new initiatives that acknowledge student “EcoWarriors” and “Green Star” teachers making meaningful ecological efforts. The school district has requested that we continue supporting these programs that inspire environmental awareness and achievement; We will happily oblige.

FoHVOS continues administering the Clean Communities program with Hopewell Township for residents and groups to clean the Valley while earning money for their favorite nonprofit organizations.

Finally, FoHVOS participated in the purchase of the spectacular Woosamonsa Ridge Preserve. We are so grateful to D&R Greenway Land Trust who took the lead and did the legwork on preserving this important property.

The common thread throughout this reflection is our sincere appreciation and dependence on the many allies working together toward our shared objective. These alliances exponentially magnify the influence we could have ever had alone.

Not surprisingly, our new #GivingTuesday initiative began with several partners that stepped up to match donor gifts. Partner matching funds ensure that each donation has an even greater impact.



For more information about FoHVOS, volunteer to get involved, or contribute to FoHVOS #GivingTuesday, go to www.fohvoss.org.



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