

Paterson Eastside Launches Good Samaritan Department

Jeffrey Prado, a church member from the Paterson Eastside church, felt the need to do more for the surrounding community. As a result of several conversations, Paterson Eastside created a new department—the Good Samaritan Department—which will specialize in community service. The church board nominated Prado to lead this brand-new department.

Prado states, “It was as though God was saying, ‘You’ve been talking about this, so I’m giving you this department to do something about it.’”

The department’s mission—comprised of caring church members—is to demonstrate the love of God to those in the community. Recently, they collaborated with the city of Paterson to hold a drive and collect items and monetary donations for those affected by the earthquake in the Türkiye/ Syria regions.

“The next plan for the Good Samaritan Department is to have a clothing and household item drive to help the less fortunate in the Paterson community,” says Prado. “We will also have an outdoor Sabbath. Since [there are some who] don’t come to the church, we will bring the church to them.”



Conference mascot, Buzz (center), and Paterson Eastside church friends Aaron Aragonés, Gerson Espinal, Fiordaliza Polanco and Khenoh Samuels, package items for Türkiye and Syria earthquake survivors.

Single Young Adults Attend ‘The Ultimate Relationship’

Recently, 47 excited, casually dressed, smiling young men and women traveled to Lawrenceville from six different conferences to participate in “The Ultimate Relationship” singles’ retreat.

Facilitator and leader Yvette Weir, CEO of the Wild at Heart ministry, and her team from Maryland led this group in dynamic presentations, interactive activities and a wildly successful scavenger hunt social. The New Jersey United Worship Band provided inspiring music throughout the day. During the retreat, there were mini-surprises, heartfelt testimonials, new friendships formed and a variety of food and snacks—from a gourmet brunch to a sweet taste of ice cream in the evening.

Weir states, “We thank the Lord for opening the doors of the New Jersey Conference, as well as the hearts of the young people who came out of their comfort zone to learn, connect and grow their awareness and knowledge of relationships in a Seventh-day Adventist environment. It is my belief that we filled a void that has oftentimes been missed.”



Buzz makes another sighting, this time with participants and facilitators at “The Ultimate Relationship” singles’ retreat.