

Ocean City-Upper Twp. Rotary Club Bulletin

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Proudly Serving the Ocean City and Upper Township Area and the World Since 1926

OCUT Rotary Club announces 2023 Upper Twp. Citizen of Year

The Rotary Club of Ocean City - Upper Township has announced the selection of **Blanche Adams** as the Rotary 2023 Upper Twp. Citizen of the

Year for her work in developing a food distribution program at the Tuckahoe United Methodist Church.

Blanche will be formally recognized during the Township of Upper's annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, to be held Monday, Nov. 27th at 6:30 pm, at Township Hall.

Blanche will be accepting the Citizen of the Year designation on behalf of the many volunteers that have helped her with food programs hosted at the **Tuckahoe United Methodist Church**.

Blanche has been an Upper Township resident for 53 years, formerly from Ocean City. She received a BA in Business Management from Stockton University and spent 40 years at Heist Insurance in Ocean City as Senior VP of Marketing and

Communication.

Currently, Blanche is a substitute teacher in the Estell Manor and Dennisville school districts.

A passion for supporting small businesses led her in 2012 to serve with the Upper Township Business Association as a volunteer, past president and current board member.

Blanche is currently the Administrative Board president of the Tuckahoe United Methodist Church and director of food pantry operations.

Little Free Pantry:

The "Little Free Pantry" concept came

Continued on Page 2



OCUT Rotary Club

Directors & Officers

July 1, 2023 To June 30, 2024

President

Ted Lands

Vice-President

Aslam Sheikh

Past-President

Cindy Harris-Chadwick

Secretary

Nancy Hannum

Treasurer

Rich Gardner

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Blanche Adams



Blanche, third from the right, with volunteers helping with a monthly Food Bank Truck delivery

Rotary Hosts Community Thanksgiving Dinner - See Pg. 4

Rotary Citizen of Year

Continued From Page 1

to her attention in late summer 2019. She brought the idea to the church pastor and the church board, and all agreed it would be a good fit for their little church.

The little white box that sits on busy Route 49 in Tuckahoe outside the church building was built by church members and patterned on a plan provided by littlefreepantry.org, the organization that founded the concept in 2016. The concept is neighbors helping neighbors, and visitors take what they need and leave what they can.

The pantry gives 24-hour anonymous access to food to anyone in need and provides an opportunity for our community neighbors to help by leaving food in the pantry. The box is stocked with nonperishable food and toiletries. Church and community vol-



The Rotary Club of Ocean City - Upper Township meeting on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, included a program by Blanche Adams about the food distribution program that has been developed by the Tuckahoe United Methodist Church. Blanche was recently selected as this year's OCUT Rotary Citizen of Year and she will be formally recognized during the Township of Upper's annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, to be held Monday, Nov. 27th at 6:30 pm, at Township Hall. Blanche will be accepting the Citizen of the Year designation on behalf of the many volunteers that have helped her with food programs hosted at her church. Blanche is pictured with Ted Lands, center, OCUT Rotary Club president and Ralph Cooper, Rotary Club Public Image chair.



unteers stock it daily and it is emptied quickly.

Community Food Bank Partnership:

In 2022 Blanche connected with a staff member of the Community Food Bank of South Jersey at a networking group. She told the Tuckahoe Little Free Pantry story and the Food Bank expressed an interest in working with their church to expand the CFB services into the northern part of Cape May County.

In April 2022 the Community Food Bank and the Tuckahoe UMC, along with community volunteers, launched the first Mobile Food Pantry, serving about 35 families. The most recent monthly distribution served 80 families and the local program continues to grow.

In September 2023 the Tuckahoe UMC was approved as a full network partner, which means the volunteers will now run the food distribution independently, with continued support from the CFB. We see the need and the gratitude of the families we serve and are committed to continuing to make something "big" from something "little", Blanche said.

Please see the OCUT Rotary Club website for information on future meeting and activities. > <http://ocutrotary.org>

Rotary Club of Ocean City - Upper Township: To learn more about the OC-UT Rotary Club contact Rotary Club President Ted Lands | ted_lands@hotmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 1187, Ocean City, NJ 08226

> <http://ocutrotary.org> | www.facebook.com/oceancityuppertownshiprotary ##



Upper Township Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Municipal Hall
2100 Tuckahoe Rd. Petersburg
Monday November 27, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Special Guest appearance by **Santa!**
Seasonal Songs by **Cape Shore Chorus**
UT Middle School Choir and Band
Presentation of **OCUT Rotary Club**
Citizen of the Year - **Blanche Adams**

UPDATE: NEW FOR THIS YEAR! Please bring a Non Perishable food item so we can help the Tuckahoe Little Food Pantry Box!

Visit our Rotary Club table during the Nov. 16 Community Night



Thursday, November 16, 2023

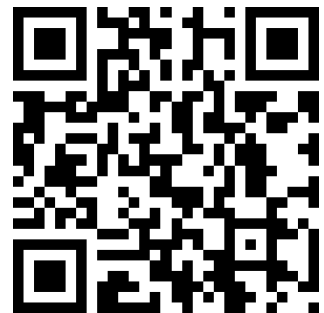
5:30-7:30pm

Upper Township Elementary School



**Holiday
Kickoff**

- Free Family Photo with SANTA
& other fun activities
- Las Olas Taqueria's FOOD TRUCK 5-7pm 
- Shop for Unique Gifts from Local Businesses
- Door Prizes, Giveaways & Grand Prizes of Philly Sports Tickets
and Bicycles
- Free Admission



Community Night Page



Don't Be Alone

Join us for a free

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 23, 2023

Dine in Dinner will be served at 1:00 pm

Trinity United Methodist Church

20 North Shore Road

Marmora, NJ 08223

Take out dinner will be available from 12:00 pm

This is first come first served – No reservations Needed

Dinner provided by The Rotary Club of Ocean City - Upper Township



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