

MEN OF THE YEAR

2014



JEFF
» ONOFRIO

Working in the world of renovation mortgage lending, Onofrio saw a way to tie together his career with his desire to help others. So he organized a team of co-workers and fellow executives last year to help Habitat for Humanity by building a home for a family in need. Last month, the group worked on their second home and plans to make it a regular project every six months. Onofrio is also involved with raising money for the Alzheimer's Association, after his grandmother passed away from the disease five years ago. Together with his sister and other family members, he's helped to raise thousands of dollars for the cause. He also routinely gives money and his time to several other local organizations and he'd like to become involved even more. "I'm a big believer in karma. It feels good to [help others] and the more you do it, the more it comes back to you," he says.

Inspired by being a longtime advocate for the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, a Washington, D.C. organization that has offered Gruber an advisory position to assist in helping seniors across the country, this Mount Laurel attorney has seen a correlation between his career and his work in the community. He regularly raises funds for Alzheimer's awareness, often organizing his firm to join him in the cause. Gruber and his family also work directly with the Jewish Relief Agency, helping to deliver food to those in need. And, during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Gruber took the lead and found fellow attorneys who lost their offices a place to work, while also assisting many citizens with applying for FEMA benefits. "It is impossible to truly gauge how wonderful it is to look at someone who feels life has forgotten them and show them it has not," he says of his community efforts.



SAUL
» GRUBER

Jonathan Herman did not always expect to find himself in the position he's in today. After earning a degree in journalism, he worked on Wall Street for a number of years before deciding he wanted to give more back to society. So he joined his uncle at Preferred Home **Health Care & Nursing Services**, where he now serves as COO, and he **has** been helping to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of individuals and families with their home health care needs. He also serves on the New Jersey state board for the March of Dimes, where he is active in helping the local southern New Jersey chapter raise funds for its two annual charity outings—Golf for Babies and the Born to Shine gala—and he and his wife, **Alene**, were also recently honored as Humanitarians of the Year by the Emmanuel Center Foundation, which helps families caring for children with cancer.



JONATHAN
» HERMAN

When Indian Mills Middle School environmental science teacher John Volpa



retired in 2012, he wasn't ready to kick back and relax. In fact, he wanted to keep learning. Shortly after retirement, the Evesham Township resident earned a spot in the nationally based Environmental Leadership Program's Senior Fellow+ Program, which provides mentoring for

JOHN
» VOLPA

leaders in sustainability and environmental projects. "Going green" was never just a hobby for Volpa, but since 2012 he has made it a major talking point in South Jersey. He serves as vice chair of the Evesham Environmental Commission and has also helped found Friends of the Black Run Preserve, which helps preserve the 1,300 acre Black Run watershed, which has since become a favorite spot for hikers, bird watchers and general nature lovers. The nonprofit runs educational programs all year long, and Volpa is quick to pass out hiking trails to anyone he meets along the way.



LOU
» FAIOLA

Cinnaminson's Louis Faiola is a busy man. As a husband and father to twin girls, Faiola is always finding new and innovative ways to help inspire South Jersey residents. His first venture came with the School of Rock in Cherry Hill, a performance-based music school that gets students involved in projects together, with concerts and performances that drive team spirit home. It was this idea that helped spark the idea of Bands of Brothers, Faiola's nonprofit that he co-founded with television producer Steven Holtzman. The project brought together 12 veterans for an online show, many who suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, at the School of Rock to form three bands and ultimately create one full-scale rock show in just 10 weeks. And Faiola's most recent passion project is the Sara James Music Foundation, which just received 501(c)(3) certification at the start of the fall. The new nonprofit aims to provide disadvantaged South Jersey children with money to pay for music lessons and instruction.

Photograph of Jeff Onofrio by Gary Mattie