Dear Friends and Allies:

Welcome to the very first edition of The Essex County Family Justice SNAPSHOT, an e-newsletter with brief and timely updates on the work of Essex County Family Justice Center. Because there is so much ongoing activity and programming designed to improve services for victims of domestic violence, advocacy for policy and social change, and training of multidisciplinary professionals... We are hoping the SNAPSHOT will make it easier to stay informed and engaged in our mission. We look forward to hearing from you, too, so please reach out to us with your thoughts and feedback. Working together, we can ensure that victims of domestic violence can find hope, healing, and safe haven in Essex County.

Program Highlight:
Health & Wellness Initiative

Volunteer Spotlight:
Tikesha James
In addition to physical injury, domestic violence victims are at increased risk of chronic health problems, such as heart disease and diabetes, and mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Yet because they are managing so many other pressing needs, health concerns are often put on hold and are rarely assessed or addressed by victim service providers. To fill this gap, Essex County Family Justice Center offers comprehensive assessments of victims to identify their unmet health needs and those of their children. The Family Justice Center then links them to affordable healthcare providers in their community for the appropriate care. Victims who have been strangled, which is often overlooked despite having serious long-term health consequences and increasing the risk of future homicide, are given specialized education, advocacy, and linkages to emergency care. Essex County Family Justice Center also trains healthcare professionals on universal screening of

Tikesha James is an active and passionate member of the Essex County VOICES Chapter, which is part of a national organization of survivor advocates seeking to help victims of domestic violence get the support and services they need. As a VOICES member, Tikesha is frequently out in the community for outreach and education events, or observing domestic violence court proceedings to monitor how criminal justice reform policies affect victims, or writing letters to State legislators to advocate for increased funding and legal protections, and so much more. And that is not all! Tikesha also volunteers in the Expungement Unit at Essex-Newark Legal Services preparing petitions, interviewing clients, and providing administrative support. Her extensive background working for the courts and her training as a domestic violence advocate make her a powerful ally to victims and individuals seeking services. She has taken just about every domestic violence advocate
strangulation, thereby improving the ability of Essex County's healthcare community to identify and support victims. This important work is generously supported by The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Office Victim of Witness Advocacy.

applying to law school. We are so grateful to have Tikesha on board and to benefit from her generosity, expertise, dedication, and limitless energy to help and serve others. Thank you, Tikesha! You’re a superstar and shining example of what it means to be a Family Justice Center Gladiator!

A team of amazing walkers/runners recently completed the Generosity New Jersey 5k to raise awareness and funds for Essex County Family Justice Center. Check out the photos and THANK YOU to the incredible participants and generous supporters who made this event a big success!