



News Release

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LIVINGSTON RESIDENT RECOGNIZED FOR EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

(Livingston, N.J.) – Livingston resident Fatima Calcado was recently recognized by her employer for her extraordinary work on behalf of the Children’s Theatre of Livingston. Her efforts earned her a coveted volunteer award from PSE&G, and a grant to help the organization she founded.

Calcado formed The Children’s Theatre in 2006 as a way to give children with little background in the arts the opportunity to gain theater experience. She and area parents knew that school aged kids without hands-on theater experience were rarely granted parts in community theater productions. She set out to help create a forum that would transform the daunting audition process into a positive one - and give children the opportunity to get involved in theater.

Calcado drew upon the financial background and management skills she honed during her professional career, and pulled together a group of volunteers, theater professionals and community leaders to stage an original production last Spring that involved more than 100 children.

Calcado was honored by her employer for her extraordinary work to organize and lead this group, an effort to which she donates 400 hours a year. In addition to giving her one of its “Recognizing Excellence in Volunteerism” awards, PSEG gave the Children’s Theatre of Livingston a \$1,000 grant on Calcado’s behalf.

“I’ve always believed in giving back, and always been a volunteer at heart,” Calcado says. “ Founding The Children’s Theatre wasn’t something I planned - it just simply evolved.”

Among other things, it evolved into a family affair. Calcado is the mother of two college-aged girls who have been involved in theater since high school, and her youngest daughter was the assistant director of The Theatre’s first production. She credits her children with helping to uncover some of the programs’ most unexpected results.

By allowing such a large group of children to be a part of a production, mentoring emerged between older and younger kids, self-confidence increased and new friendships formed. And, children had the opportunity to meet some of the town’s high school teachers and kids from different area schools.

The older kids interact wonderfully with the younger ones, and they all eventually see themselves as a group,” Calcado says. “That’s the magic of theater.”

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Livingston children in grades 2 – 8 can get involved with The Children’s Theatre as stage managers, choreographers, actors or sound crew. What makes this organization unique is that, unlike traditional theaters that rely on competitive and formal auditions, The Children’s Theatre accepts the first 70 children that apply.

The grant from PSEG will help organization provide more hands-on experiences for more children. That’s good news, because it has been so successful that there’s now a waiting list.

PSEG has a long tradition of caring for New Jersey’s people and communities. Each year, the company and its employees invest millions of dollars and thousands of hours to improve the quality of life in New Jersey. The “Recognizing Excellence in Volunteerism” awards are only one of several ways the company supports and encourages its employees’ philanthropic contributions.

“Though our people expend a great deal of energy at work, they still manage to find the time to give back to their communities and make New Jersey a better place to live and work,” said John R. Smith, PSEG’s director of corporate responsibility. “We honor their commitment and support their efforts.”

Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) (NYSE:PEG) is a publicly traded diversified energy company with annual revenues of more than \$12 billion, and three principal subsidiaries: PSEG Power, PSEG Energy Holdings, and Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G).

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