

## ABOUT THE COMMISSION & OUR WOMEN'S ADVOCATE AWARD

The Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to identifying the needs, concerns, problems and interests as well as services and resources for women in Ocean County. The Commission offers information pertinent to the needs of women through an Information and Referral service, awareness programs and publications. The Commission also advocates for the advancement of women in society by acting as a liaison to many community organizations, women's groups and social service agencies.

As part of this mission, the Commission has developed the "Women's Advocate of the Year" award to recognize an agency, organization, program or individual that has demonstrated a personal commitment to women's issues through the required leadership skills and resources necessary to advocate for improved services for women in Ocean County. This award is our way of thanking those that go above and beyond to meet the growing needs of our women residents and their families.

### Commissioners

<i>Roberta Anne Burcz, Esq.</i>	<i>Joyce E. Jackson, R.D.A.</i>	<i>Norvella Lightbody</i>
<i>Dr. Mary Ellen T. Carr</i>	<i>Linda Kardos</i>	<i>Dr. Kathleen McCormick</i>
<i>Jenny Cody</i>	<i>Theresa Kubiel</i>	<i>Dana Ann O'Connor</i>
<i>Clyde H. Crofoot, Esq.</i>	<i>Barbara Lanuto</i>	<i>Bonnie R. Peterson, Esq.</i>
<i>Barbara Florimont</i>	<i>Michele Lardieri</i>	<i>April Yezzi</i>
<i>Christina Gaetano</i>	<i>Barbara Lehman</i>	<i>Carol Zsiga</i>
	<i>Hazel Gluck, Honorary Member</i>	

### Ocean County Department of Human Services Advisory Commission on the Status of Women

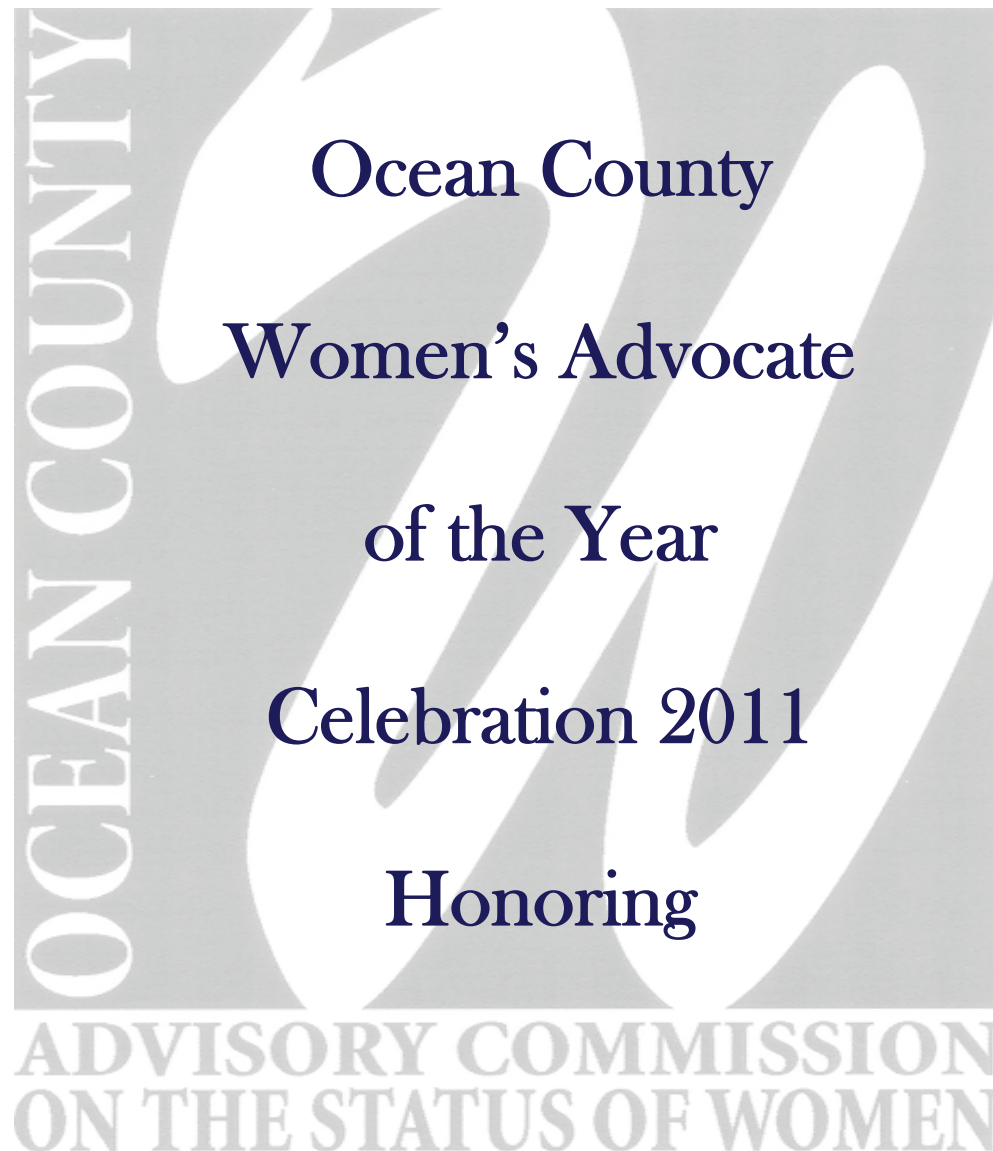
<i>Department of Human Services</i>	<i>1027 Hooper Avenue,</i>
<i>Jill Perez, Director</i>	<i>Building 2, 3rd Floor</i>
<i>Tracy Maksel, Assistant Director</i>	<i>Toms River, NJ 08754</i>
<i>Advisory Commission on the</i>	<i>Phone: 732.506.5374</i>
<i>Status of Women</i>	<i>Fax: 732.341-4539</i>
<i>Kelly Mitchell, Coordinator</i>	<i>www.co.ocean.nj.us/ocdlhs</i>
<i>Sue Semevolos, Administrative Clerk Typist</i>	

### Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders

<i>John C. Bartlett, Jr.</i>	<i>James F. Lacey, Liaison</i>	<i>Gerry P. Little</i>
<i>John P. Kelly</i>		<i>Joseph H. Vicari</i>

### Program Sponsors

Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women  
Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore



September 10, 2011

Holiday Inn, Toms River

## PROGRAM

<b>Troop 307</b>	<b>Girl Scout Color Guard Presentation</b>
<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>	Kelly Mitchell, Coordinator <b>Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women</b>
<b>Recognition Presentation</b>	<b>Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders Resolution</b> Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari
<b>Norvella Lightbody</b> WC Chairwoman	<b>Township of Toms River Mayor &amp; Council Resolution</b> Honorable Council Vice President Brian S. Kubiel Honorable Councilman Gregory P. McGuckin
<b>Joyce Jackson</b> WC Vice-Chair	<b>Ocean County College</b> Dr. Jon Larson
<b>Michele Lardieri</b> WC Commissioner	<b>Returning Student</b> Shalonda Maples
<b>Barbara Lehman</b> WC Commissioner	<b>Breakfast Served</b>
<b>Dr. Kathleen McCormick</b> WC Commissioner	<b>Soroptimist International of Toms River</b> Kathy Borgmesser
<b>Bonnie Peterson</b> WC Commissioner	<b>NAACP</b>
<b>Jenny Cody</b> WC Commissioner	<b>Women of Purpose</b> Reverend Sarah Reed
<b>2011 Advocate Award Presentation</b>	<b>Women's Advocate of the Year Award 2011</b> 2010 Advocate, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore Fran Keane, Representative
<b>Honoree's Remarks</b>	<b>Grace Johnson</b>
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Norvella Lightbody, Chairwoman <b>Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women</b>
<b>Networking</b>	11:00 am - 12:00 pm



## GRACE JOHNSON

Originally, from Mount Vernon, New York, Grace Johnson has resided in Ocean County since 1977. Although, having various other career possibilities, Grace chose the education profession as her career path. Graduating from Ocean County College (OCC), Toms River, NJ, in 1988 with an Associate Science Degree, *Notable Note: Grace was OCC's first African-American commencement speaker.* She continued her higher education at Georgian Court College, Lakewood, NJ, where in 1992 she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Special Education. Grace now holds the distinguished position of Assistant Director for the Office of Multicultural Services at her alma mater, OCC.

As a mother of two daughters, Valerie and Nakia, a single head of household and more recently as a grandmother, Grace has always stayed involved. Her oldest daughter, Valerie Johnson-Green, is a Psychiatric Nurse in the Crisis Unit at Jersey Shore Medical Center. Also, she is a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner for the Ocean County Prosecutors Office. She is married to Cornelius Green and they have a beautiful daughter, Sade. In May 2011, Sade graduated from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ. Grace's youngest daughter, Nakia Johnson-Santos is a homemaker, as well as a graduate student, pursuing a Masters Degree at Kean University. Nakia is married to Joseph Santos and they have a debonair son, Joseph Rome Santos. Joseph, who is 11 years old, has received the President Obama Award for Academic Excellence, in both 2010 and 2011.

In addition to managing family, home and academic responsibilities, Grace has maintained a twenty five-plus year's service affiliation with OCC. In this capacity she has been the Coordinator for "Camp Viking", a summer program for academically disadvantaged students. She was the Office of Multicultural Services Community Outreach Representative, thus making her available to potential students and other community members in convenient settings, such as, libraries, stores, churches, community centers, medical centers and schools. Her third roll at OCC was as an Academic Advisor in the Counseling Department. In this capacity she helped freshmen and non-traditional students (i.e., formerly homeless women in transitional housing programs) plan their college courses. In addition, she conducted campus tours, worked with misplaced workers and returning students. Grace has been a mentor for up to five college student protégés in OCC's mentorship program. True to her convictions, as well as rising above the call of duty, even after her heart attack in April 1995, Grace voluntarily participated in the multi-cultural committee's three day conference and training seminar on cultural diversity and prejudice reduction.

### **Awards, Recognitions and Affiliations**

Member of *Who's Who Among Students at OCC*, & *Dr. Lena Edwards Award*; Advisor, Organization for Black Unity; NAACP – Executive Board Member, Lakewood, 1988-2006 & Toms River, 2009-Present; New Jersey State Transitional Housing Program, Advisor/Counselor, 1991-Present; Letter of Recognition & Welcome as a member of the inaugural class of AmeriCorps, May 1995; Honorary Alumni Award from OCC, March 1996; Lakewood NAACP Recipient of Community Service Award. Elected First Vice President, June 1997; Lakewood Community Coalition, 1997-1998; Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, 1998-2001; Soroptimist International of the Americas, 1998-Present; W.I.N. Women In Need, 1998-Present; Habitat for Humanity Northern Ocean Volunteer, 1998-2002; OC Health Department, 1998-Present; Committee member of "Building a Healthier Ocean County", 1998-Present; The NJ Senate and General Assembly State House, 2002; First recipient of the Volunteer of the Month Award from Lakewood Township, 2002; The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. Service Award, 2002; Boy Scouts of America, Whitney M.Young, Jr. Service Award, 2002; OC Board of Chosen Freeholder, Census 2010 Complete Court Committee, 2009-Present; Superior Court of NJ, Ocean Vicinage – Advisory Committee - Minority Concerns, 2009-Present; Alliance for Women in History, Ocean Chapter, GAEA Award, 1994; Toms River NAACP Community Service Award, 2009; Women of Purpose Board Member, 2009-Present; Lakewood NAACP Member, Present.

